INSIDE TOP WEBSITES FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN RESEARCH

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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023

ORGANIZE Your Files in a Day

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- IDEAS: 14 One-Day Organization Projects
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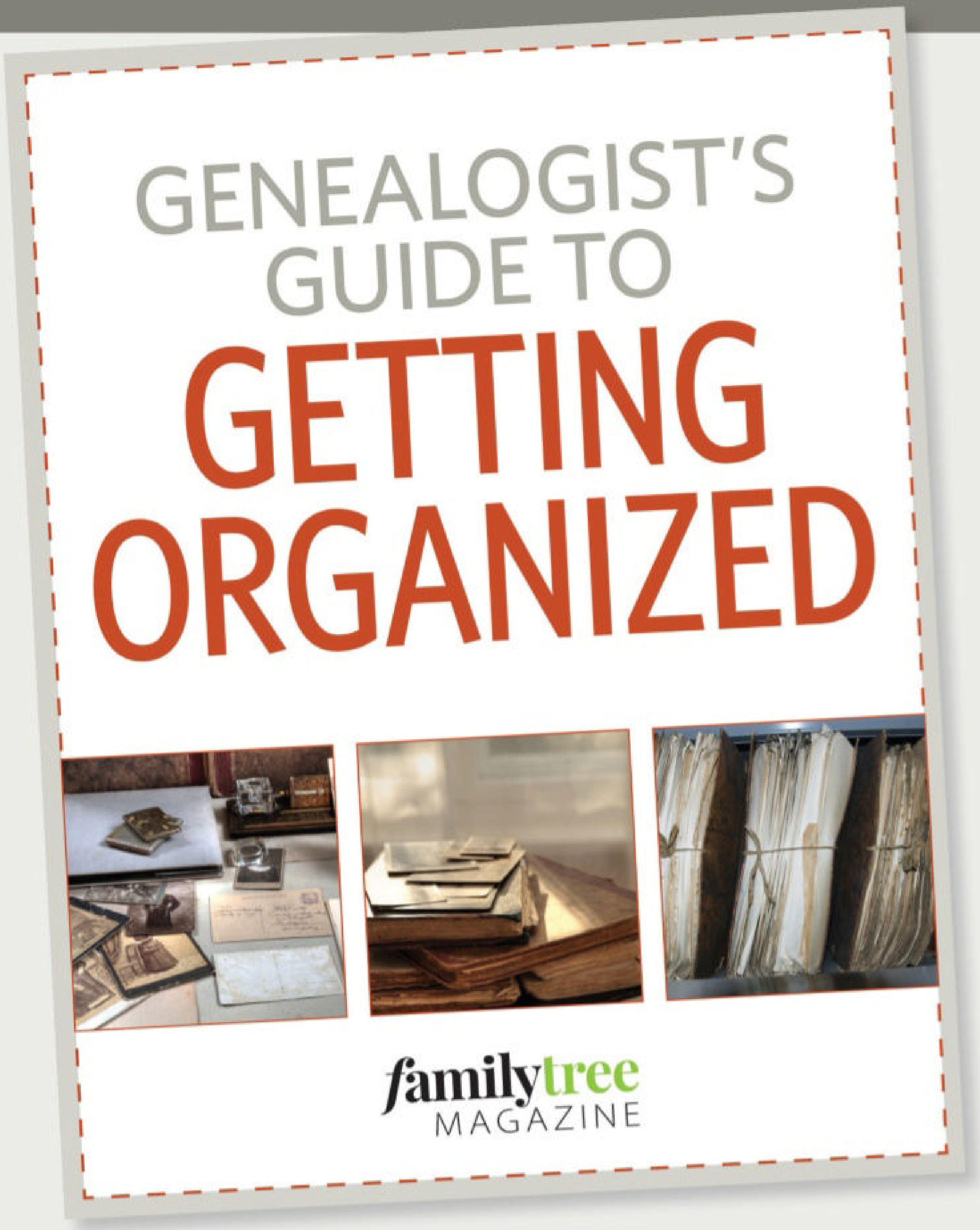
ORGANIZE YOUR GENEALOGY



GENEALOGIST'S GUIDE TO GETTING ORGANIZED

familytree MAGAZINE

This ebook features advice from industry experts, with easy tips for:

- organizing your genealogy files, projects and research using the latest online and offline tools and methods
- time management, writing your family history, beginning a research project, planning out your yearly goals, and much more
- analyzing research problems and putting together a practical research plan to solve them

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JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2023

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COVER PHOTO:
JULIE BARNETT

branchingout

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out on a **limb**

PHOTO CREDIT: BOTOS PHOTOS

New year, new you. If you're like me, you approach each turn of the calendar with an overly ambitious list of resolutions. Some of mine from past years include doing one extra chore per day and working out three times per week. (Neither lasted through January.)

But this year will be different … right?

Finally getting organized is a popular new year's resolution, especially for longtime genealogists. If that's on your list for 2023, check out the guide I put together on how to organize your genealogy in a single day (page 12).

Of course, *staying* organized is a habit you'll have to build over time. But the productivity tips and sample projects in this article will help if you can set aside just one day—say, a rainy Saturday—to work with your materials. Our Source Citations Cheat Sheet and tips for entering data into genealogy software (page 50) will help you get your research in order this year, too.

This issue also sees the return of "5 Questions With," in which an interviewee shares wisdom about their area of expertise. This first entry (page 5) is with a professional organizing consultant.

Alternatively, maybe traveling is on your list of resolutions. Contributing Editor Sunny Jane Morton rounds up a list of prominent 2023 genealogy conferences on page 68. All the events listed have at least some virtual programming, and the popular RootsTech returns as an in-person event in Salt Lake City this year. (We'll see you there!)

No matter what your goal is, don't forget to give yourself some grace. Your ultimate resolution should just to be a better version of yourself—a more-accurate researcher, a more-dedicated descendant, and even a more-considerate ancestor. ●

Andrew P. Koch

TREE TALK

We asked what you'd do if you had a whole day of uninterrupted research time. Here's how you responded.

Organization. I found so much information. Now it's time to get it organized.

Margaret Caple Demick via Facebook

I have spent 8 to 10 hours in a day nonstop doing genealogy on several occasions. I call it my genealogy marathon days.

Sharon M C Collopy via Facebook

Stop procrastinating and write family stories!

Linda Blake Hurtubise via Facebook

TRY TO BREAK THROUGH the brick wall of my great-grandfather! He was adopted, none of us know when or if it was a family or stranger adoption. Been working off and on for almost 40 years!

Shari Johnson via Facebook

Visiting the county offices and going through their old records before they get rid of them.

Carol Rinaldi via Facebook

It's overwhelming to think about! So many things that need to be done!

Polly-Jo Clark via Facebook

I WOULD ORGANIZE my family photos and start scanning them to my computer. I should do that when I don't have uninterrupted genealogy time. Genealogy work is always present.

Journey Through the Generations via Facebook

Organizing and labeling and sharing photos

Kimberly Katsanis Ammeter via Facebook

5 QUESTIONS *with:*

Lahni Carney - *Professional Organizer*

Getting organized is a popular goal for a one-day research project. Owner of the Colorado-based Clutterless Home Solutions <www.clutterlesshomesolutions.com>, Lahni Carney knows a thing or two about organization. Here are her tips for making the most of your time:

1 How do you create an organizational system that works for your clients?

When we organize for someone, the two main things we keep in mind are simplicity and efficiency. No one is going to keep up an organizing system that is complicated, especially if they are not already self-described as organized. We customize it to what works for the client, and typically that means everything being very visible and accessible.

2 What are some common mistakes people make when tackling an organization project?

Not being upfront about their goals or not being ready for the project. We see this in clients who make the process a lot longer than it needs to be with an inability to make decisions, wanting to change things over and over. It's very important that clients and everyone involved are on board, or else the project won't be as successful.

3 If a client is having trouble throwing away materials, what do you tell them?

We ask clients a few different questions to address an issue with getting rid of items: Have you used this item or needed it within the last year? Does the item bring you happiness/is it sentimental? Is the item useful?

When it comes to genealogy, most of our clients want to keep most everything. This is because the history is all important. We just stress that more-detailed categorization will make future items easier to put away and easier for future generations to understand and enjoy.

4 Do you have advice on building a system that covers both physical and digital?

Digital organizing is a lot like filing paper in a filing cabinet. You have folders that scanned documents or pictures or files go into, and it's better to organize folders with lots of subfolders/subcategories.

5 How do you encourage people to stay organized after your session with them?

The *most* important way to stay organized is to put things away immediately and not just set it down to do it later. This is the no. 1 reason people are disorganized. Build up the habit to put things away right away in the "home" you've established.

See page 12 for tips for tackling a one-day organization project, in which Carney is featured. You can hear more advice on organizing genealogy on the January 2023 episode of the Family Tree Podcast <www.familytreemagazine.com/genealogy-podcast>.

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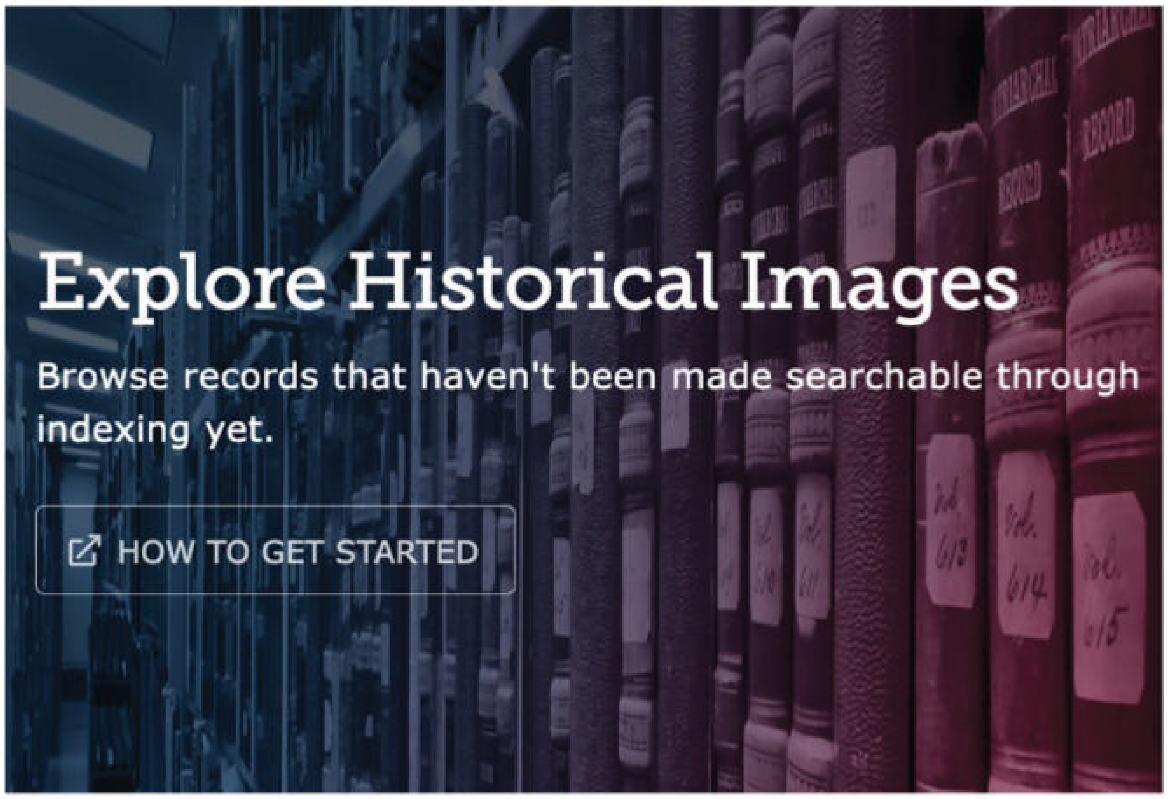
WHAT'S NEW

FamilySearch Tops 5 Billion Historical Images

MORE THAN 5 BILLION record images are now browsable in the free FamilySearch Historical Images portal <www.familysearch.org/records/images>. This stockpile of recently digitized historical records is captured by 300-plus cameras operating all around the world. Camera crews upload their work on a near-daily basis here to make images available to researchers as quickly as possible.

The records in Historical Images are not yet name-searchable. Users can browse them by place, date and other information. Record types include those that identify individuals, family relationships, and key events such as births, marriages and deaths.



Explore Historical Images

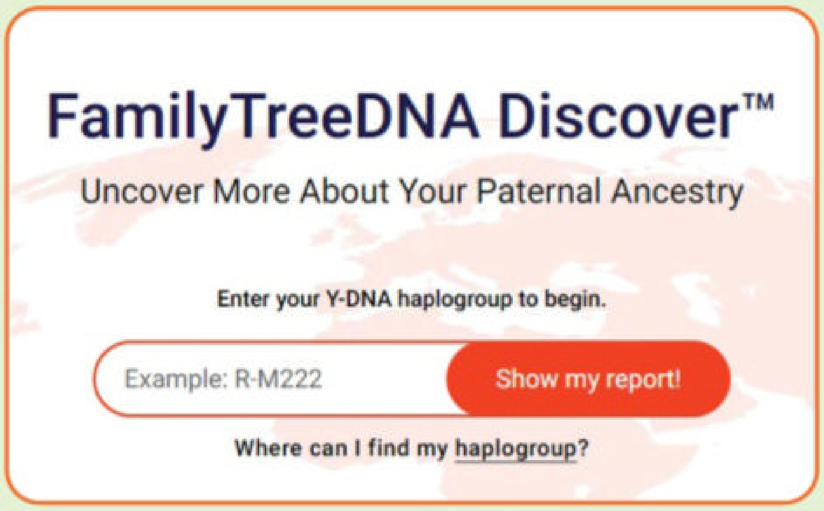
Browse records that haven't been made searchable through indexing yet.

NEW Y HAPLOGROUP REPORTS

Genetic males who know their Y haplogroup from testing with Family Tree DNA <www.familytreedna.com>, 23andMe <www.23andme.com> or Living DNA <www.livingdna.com> can now learn more from their results at Family Tree DNA Discover <discover.familytreedna.com>. This online tool shows testers their place on an enormous family tree of nearly 60,000 interconnected haplogroups (genetic branches).

"The Time Tree shows a genetic family tree of direct paternal lineages on a time scale," explains a Family Tree DNA announcement. "It shows how you are related to other people from the past and present and when your shared ancestors are estimated to have lived."

You can access the tool for free, but will need to register using an email address. Users can explore their genetic connections to more than 80,000 individual Big Y testers; 2,000 ancient DNA samples; and famous historical figures and families or clans. The Time Tree is updated weekly; about 1,000 new haplogroups are added each month.



FamilyTreeDNA Discover™

Uncover More About Your Paternal Ancestry

Enter your Y-DNA haplogroup to begin.

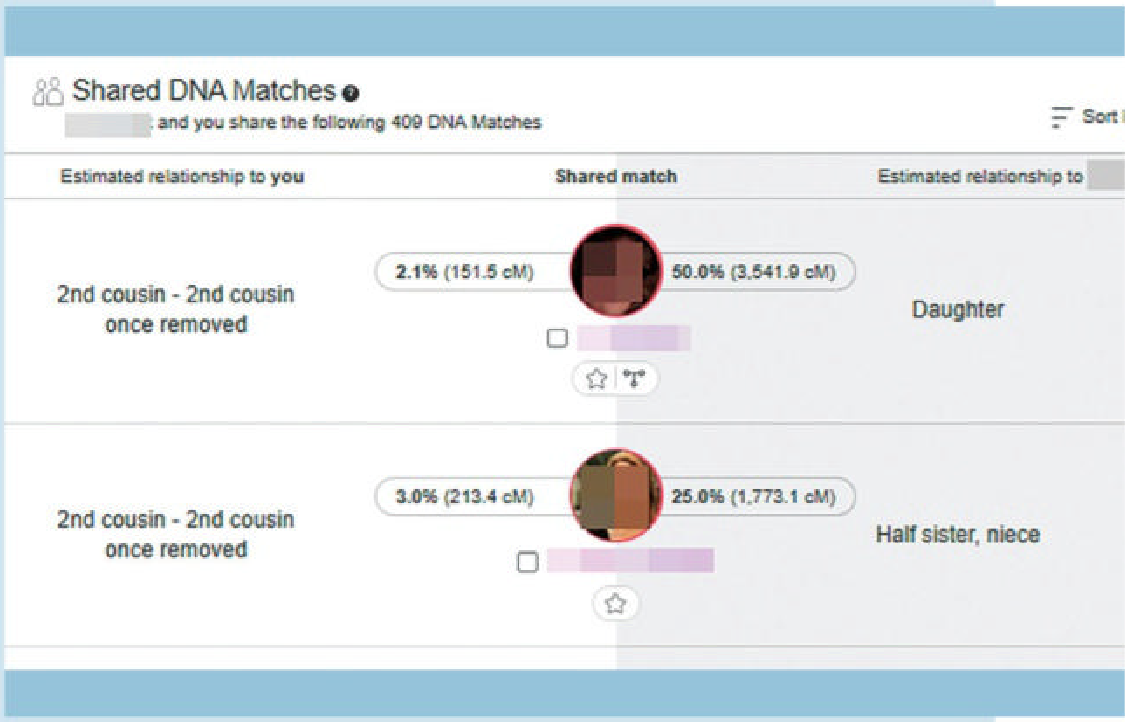
Where can I find my haplogroup?

SHARED MATCH SORTING AT MYHERITAGE

You can now view your shared DNA matches at genetic genealogy company MyHeritage <www.myheritage.com> in a more powerful way. When looking at an individual DNA match, you can sort your shared matches by the amount of DNA they share with you—or the amount they share with your match.

This tool can help you more efficiently explore genetic relationships between your DNA matches, which can, in turn, shed light on your relationships to them. (For example, it can be helpful to learn that two of your matches are in fact mother and daughter, as shown here.)

This tool is available only to MyHeritage subscribers, as well as those who transferred their DNA results from another company and pay a one-time unlock fee of $29.



Shared DNA Matches

[redacted] and you share the following 409 DNA Matches

Estimated relationship to you	Shared match		Estimated relationship to [redacted]
2nd cousin - 2nd cousin once removed	2.1% (151.5 cM) ☐ [redacted]	50.0% (3,541.9 cM)	Daughter
2nd cousin - 2nd cousin once removed	3.0% (213.4 cM) ☐ [redacted]	25.0% (1,773.1 cM)	Half sister, niece

---

Donated: Louisville News Photos

AN ESTIMATED 3 MILLION PHOTOS from *The Courier Journal*, a Louisville, Ky., newspaper, have been donated to the University of Louisville's Archives and Special Collections. The collection <library.louisville.edu/archives/bingham-cj> is expected to be available to the public within a few years, allowing guests to enjoy the visual chronicle of local, state and national history.

The collection, which nearly doubles the university's photo collection, documents both daily and major events from the mid-1930s to the early 2000s. "The collection might have dated back further," notes a *Courier Journal* article announcing the news. "But Louisville's Great Flood of 1937 destroyed much of *The Courier Journal*'s photo and negative library." ●

'Throw Him Out!' 'Throw Him Out!' And—
'Little Business' Men Do Just That

Page from the 4 February 1938 issue of *The Courier Journal*, accessed via Newspapers.com

Sunny Jane Morton

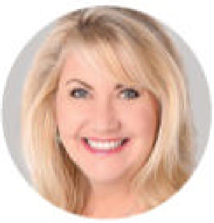
is a contributing editor for Family Tree Magazine, *content manager at* Your DNA Guide *and industry expert on the giant genealogy websites.*

Dialing Up History

TERN PACIFIC
878
RAIL ROAD CROSSING
LOOK LISTEN
QUINCY 1100
SIERRA PACI
WESTERN PACIFIC
WP 608

▲ ROAD TRIP:
Working on the Railroad

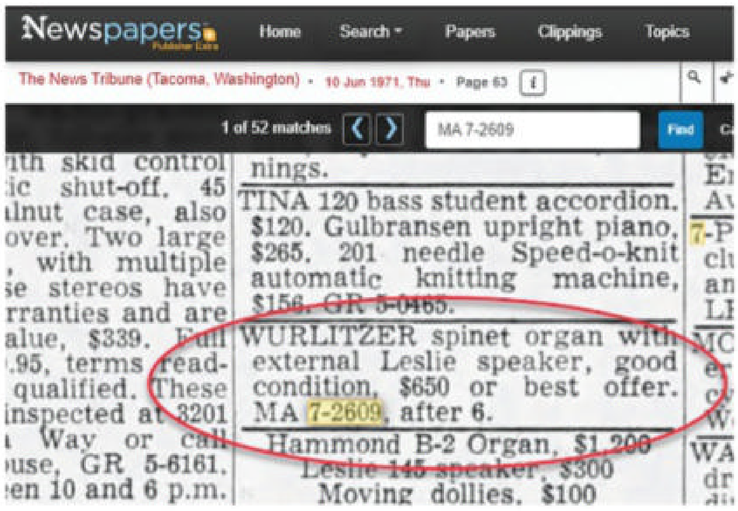
While on a trip to California for my daughter's wedding, we found ourselves staying in the town of Portola, home of the Western Pacific Railroad Museum <www.wplives.org> (operated by the Feather River Rail Society). I jumped at the chance to see first-hand the locomotives on which my grandfather and great-grandfather worked as conductors. That visit now has me thinking about finding other museums devoted to the businesses and occupations of my ancestors!



Lisa Louise Cooke *is the founder of the Genealogy Gems website and podcast <www.lisalouisecooke.com>, and host of the Family Tree Podcast <www.familytreemagazine.com/genealogy-podcast>.*

▶ RESEARCH TIP:
Phone Numbers in Newspapers

One of my favorite newspaper research strategies is searching by phone number and location. Results identify the activities of your relatives even if they weren't named in the article! Ever wonder what happened to that Wurlitzer organ you learned to play as a kid? You may just find the date your parents put it up for sale. Search for your phone number—both the seven digits and telephone exchange letters, if applicable—and the town or state.



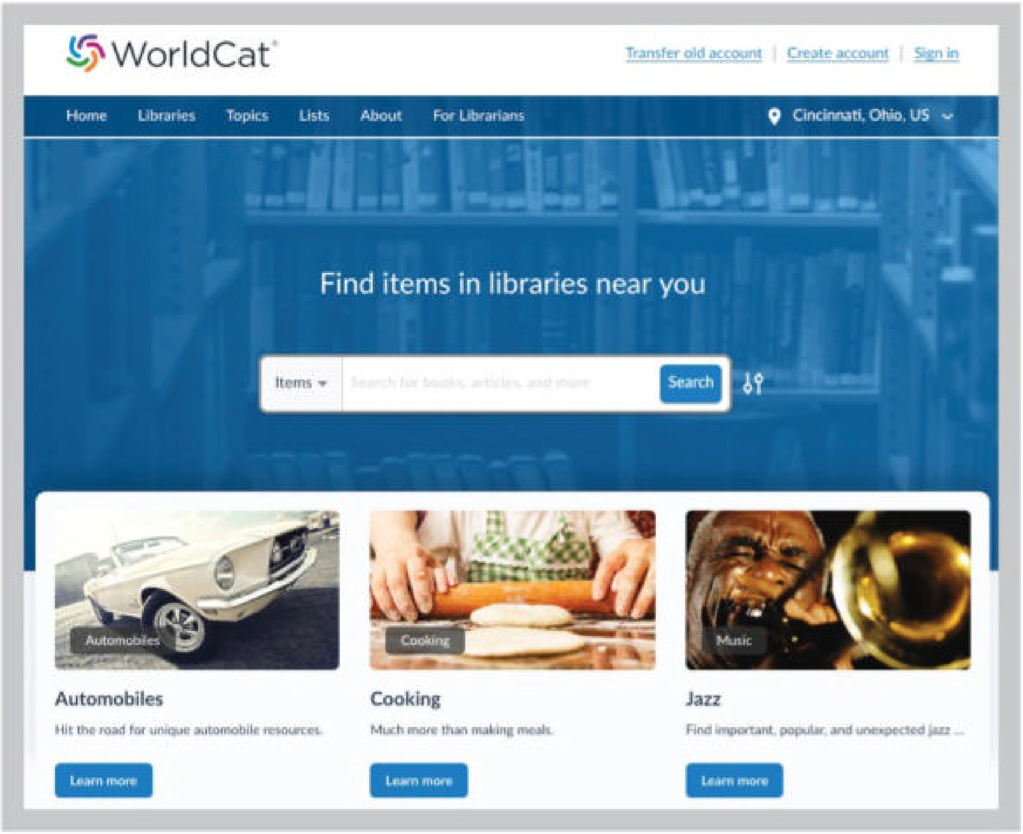
The News Tribune (Tacoma, Washington) • 10 Jun 1971, Thu • Page 63

TINA 120 bass student accordion. $120. Gulbransen upright piano, $265. 201 needle Speed-o-knit automatic knitting machine, $156. GR 5-0465.

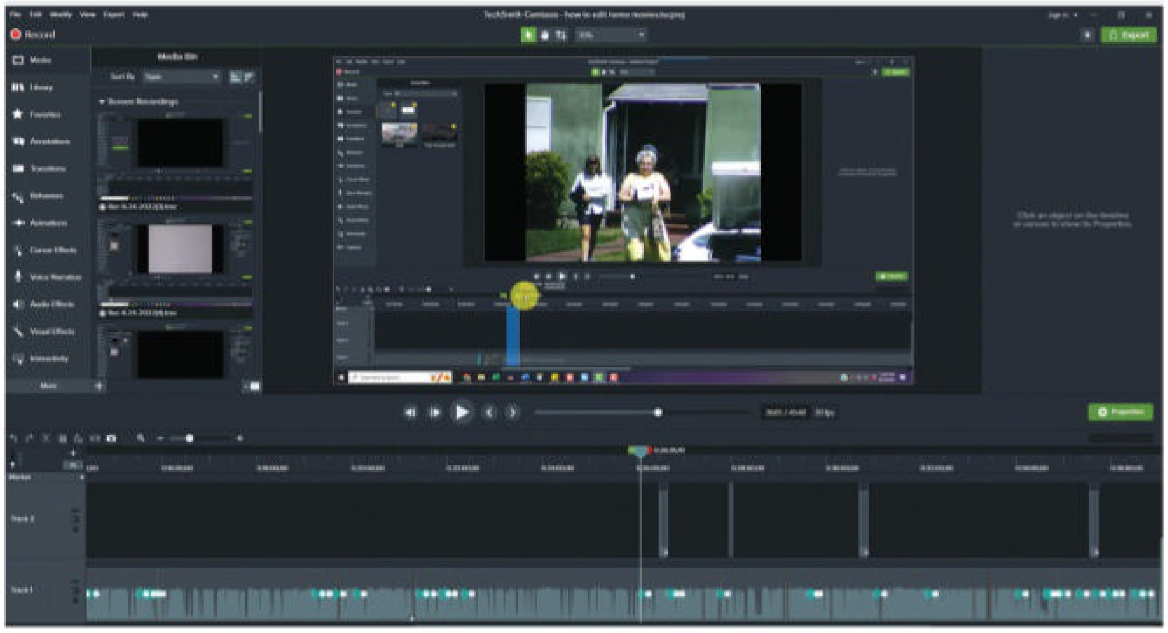
WURLITZER spinet organ with external Leslie speaker, good condition, $650 or best offer. MA 7-2609, after 6.

Hammond B-2 Organ, $1,200
Leslie 145 speaker, $300
Moving dollies, $100

PHOTO TAGGER: COURTESY MYHERITAGE; ALL OTHERS: COURTESY LISA LOUISE COOKE

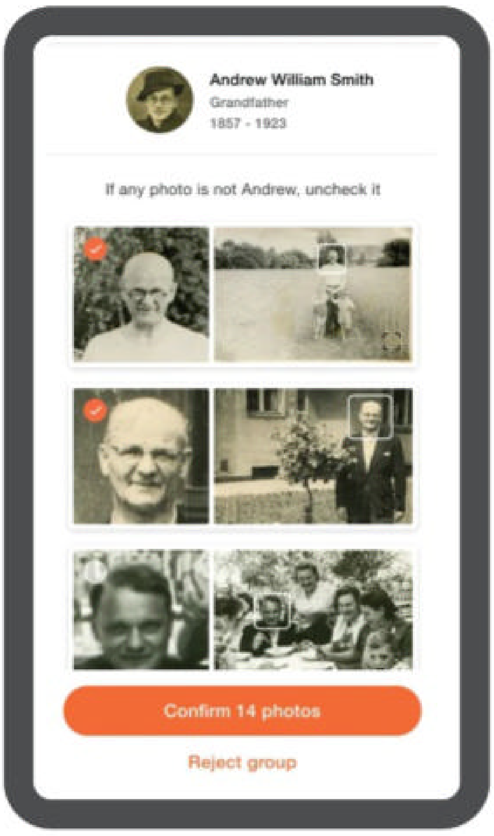

WorldCat
Transfer old account | Create account | Sign in
Home Libraries Topics Lists About For Librarians
Cincinnati, Ohio, US
Find items in libraries near you
Items
Search for books, articles, and more
Search
Automobiles
Automobiles
Hit the road for unique automobile resources.
Learn more
Cooking
Cooking
Much more than making meals.
Learn more
Music
Jazz
Find important, popular, and unexpected jazz ...
Learn more

▲ SITES TO SEE: The New and Improved WorldCat
When I'm in search of hard-to-find library materials, I turn to WorldCat <www.worldcat.org>, the free website that connects researchers to more than 15,000 libraries around the world. In 2022, they completed a massive update to the website. A free WorldCat account allows you to create and search lists of materials, discover new libraries and more. The new year is a great time to transfer your old account or create a new one.



▲ PRESERVING AND SHARING: Editing Home Movies with Camtasia
After I had my family's old home movies digitized, I realized I was only half-way to making them watchable. Rather than inviting family to a viewing party full of blank spots, footage of fingers in front of the camera, and TV shows recorded between family shots, I set about editing the home videos. My choice of editing tools is Camtasia by Techsmith <www.techsmith.com/video-editor.html>. Known for its screen-capturing capabilities, Camtasia is also an easy-to-use editing powerhouse. Best of all, you access Camtasia by paying a one-time license, not an ongoing subscription.

▲ Podcast
Hear more great genealogy finds from Lisa and other experts in our free monthly podcast <www.familytreemagazine.com/genealogy-podcast>.


Andrew William Smith
Grandfather
1857 - 1923
If any photo is not Andrew, uncheck it
Confirm 14 photos
Reject group

▲ TECH TOOL: MyHeritage Photo Tagger
Photo labels shouldn't be limited to the backside of prints. In today's digital age, MyHeritage has made it easy to efficiently tag scanned photos. Thanks to the facial-recognition technology built into MyHeritage's Photo Tagger, users can tag photos in batches. It also has the uncanny ability to identify the same person in photos taken over their lifespan. I also appreciate that MyHeritage has made a commitment to never share our information with third parties. Learn more at <blog.myheritage.com/2022/09/new-photo-tagger-now-available-on-the-myheritage-website>. ●

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— J. Fitzgerald, VA

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Breaking News

A newspaper article about his orphaned grandmother leads one researcher to a familiar source.

Tom Koselka of Westland, Mich., looked for his grandmother's family for 35 years. Koselka's grandmother was an orphan whose parents he knew as Elizabeth and Frank Jacobs. Over time, his research revealed they originally had a different surname: Chehaw, with a variety of spellings.

Though Koselka prefers digging into original records at libraries and archives—he especially loves visiting the Archives of Michigan <www.michigan.gov/mhc/archives>—the COVID-19 pandemic redirected him to online searches for the Chehaws.

A digitized edition of the *Detroit News* at Newsbank provided a major clue. In an early 1888 article, five children with the last name Chiko were listed as wards of Detroit. "Their father could not support or care for them following the death of their mother," Koselka says. "The Detroit Home for the Friendless was petitioning the probate court to have them committed to the Coldwater State School for Children."

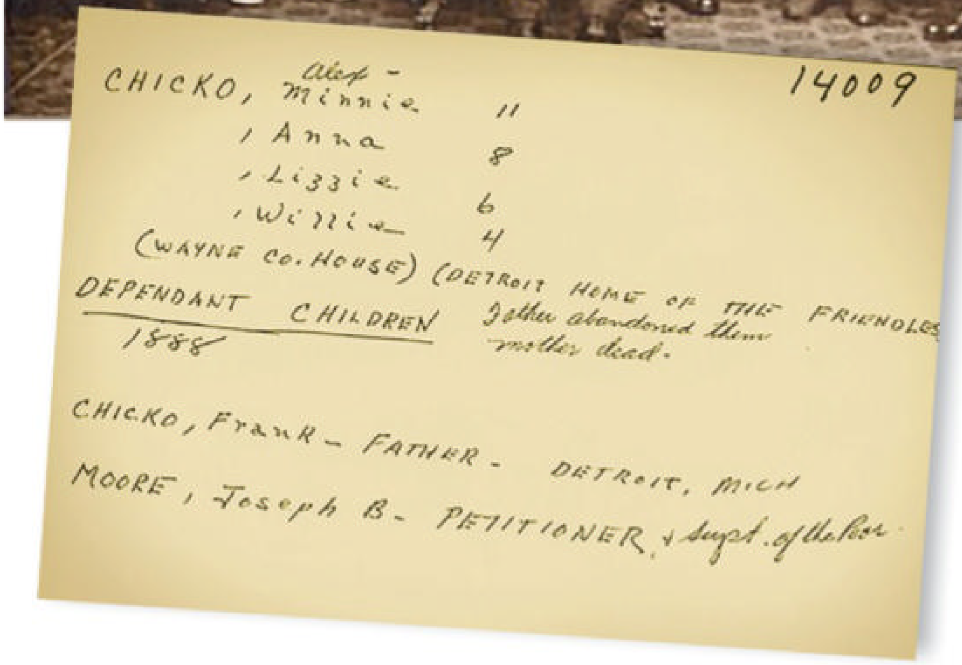
This looked familiar: not just the surname and place, but also the description of five children. Koselka has a treasured family photo of his grandmother, Lizzie; her siblings Anna, Minnie, Frank, Alex and Bill; and their father, Frank.

Koselka found the digitized probate record on FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org>. It summed up their heartbreaking story in five words: "Father abandoned them; mother dead." The spelling in the probate record—Chicko—was the breakthrough Koselka needed to confidently identify the family and continue researching them.

Taking things a step further, Koselka looked for the location of the original record. It turns out he had unknowingly been walking past it for many years. He reports with a smile: "The original probate packet lives at the Archives of Michigan." ●

Sunny Jane Morton

COURTESY TOM KOSELKA



CHICKO, Alex - Minnie 11
, Anna 8
, Lizzie 6
, Willie 4
(WAYNE CO. HOUSE) (DETROIT HOME OF THE FRIENDLES
DEPENDANT CHILDREN Father abandoned them mother dead.
1888
14009

CHICKO, Frank - FATHER - DETROIT, MICH
MOORE, Joseph B. - PETITIONER, + Supt. of the Poor

Above: The Jacobs family circa 1907, including Tom Koselka's grandmother

Below: An image of the Chicko family's probate record that Koselka found on FamilySearch

To learn about researching orphans in your family tree, read <www.familytreemagazine.com/birth-families/adoption/researching-orphan-children-genealogy>.

All in a Day's Work

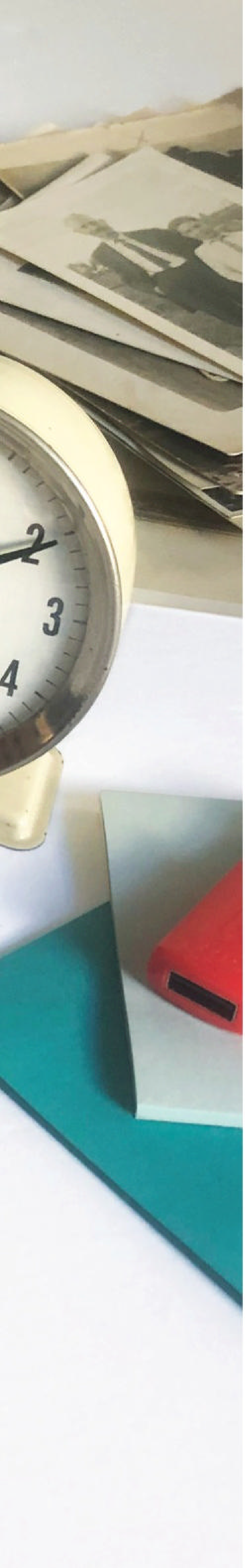
If all you've got is a Saturday to organize your genealogy, make it count with these tips for a successful one-day organization project.

by ANDREW KOCH

Keeping your research organized is a bit like saving for retirement: The best time to start was yesterday, but the second-best time is today. It's much easier to organize your research as you go.

But since many of us have been accumulating data and documents for years (even decades) and have other obligations, it can be easy to fall behind.

Let's say this upfront: You probably can't organize *all* your research in a single day. Sustainable organization requires a thoughtful plan and constant maintenance, plus a not-insignificant amount of time. But if one day is all you can spare to get your research organized, here's how to make the most of it.



JULIE BARNETT

BEFORE THE DAY

To have the most efficient work day possible, you'll need to prepare days or even weeks in advance. Here are some ways to set yourself up for a productive day ahead of time.

CLEAR THE DAY

If you can help it, make this day *only* about your genealogy. Having other tasks or events (appointments, errands, parties or social engagements, chores, etc.) during this time will disrupt your flow, so avoid them as best as you can. Obtain any necessary child- or petcare, and submit any time-off requests to your employer. Maybe even set up an email away message or note on your front door, or inform relatives and friends that you'll be out-of-touch and nose-down in genealogy work.

CREATE GOALS

With such a narrow time window, you'll need to decide what you want to accomplish. What specifically can you do in that day to feel successful? What do you *really* hope to achieve?

Not being upfront with their goals is one of the most common mistakes people make when tackling an organization project, according to professional organizer Lahni Carney. "We see this in clients who make the process a lot longer than it needs to be with an inability to make decisions, wanting to change things over and over," says Carney, who owns organization-consulting service Clutterless Home Solutions <www.clutterlesshomesolutions.com>. "It's very important that clients and everyone involved are on board, or else the project won't be as successful."

Write down your goals for the day, and be as specific as possible. We've written before about creating "S.M.A.R.T" goals, which are:

- **Specific** (i.e., narrow in scope)
- **Measurable** (have clear criteria for whether or not they are completed)
- **Achievable/Attainable** or **Actionable** (can be implemented by you)
- **Realistic** (can reasonably be done with the available time and resources) or **Relevant** (fit into your larger goals)
- **Time-bound** (have a deadline)

The sidebar on page 15 lists some goal ideas that could reasonably be accomplished in a single day. Though not all of them meet the S.M.A.R.T. criteria, you can tailor them to do so and reflect your own research.

Remember, too, that the focus for this day is *organization*, not finding documents. Your goals should be focused on organizing the materials you already have, not searching for new ones or filling in any holes in your family story. "Start small. Choose one aspect of your genealogy you want to organize better," says Gena Philibert-Ortega <www.genagenealogy.com>, professional genealogy researcher and instructor of Family Tree University's "Organize Your Genealogy Research" course. "Just focus on that and not all your genealogy research."

Looking for a longer-term research plan? See our guides to researching an ancestor in a week and to planning a whole month of genealogy <www.familytreemagazine.com/research/7-day-genealogy-research-plan> and <www.familytreemagazine.com/research/genealogy-research-skills>.

TATOMM/ISTOCK

To have the most efficient work day possible, you'll need to prepare days or even weeks in advance.

PRIORITIZE YOUR TIME

Certain research tasks are more important than others, and (with limited time) you'll have to place higher value on some over others. To help triage, create a "must-do" list of your most pertinent, highest-priority tasks for the day, as well as a "would be nice" list. That way, you'll focus on the most important items first, while also creating a list of tasks to pursue if you finish that high-priority list but still have time left.

One framework for prioritizing tasks is the Eisenhower Matrix <www.todoist.com/productivity-methods/eisenhower-matrix>. Named after the general-turned-president Dwight Eisenhower, this method evaluates to-do items using two major criteria: urgency (i.e., timeliness) and importance. It then creates a four-quadrant matrix that dictates what to do with tasks that fit into either category:

	Urgent	**Not Urgent**
Important	Do this first	Schedule to do later
Not Important	Delegate*	Don't do

*The lone researcher probably doesn't have a staff of employees to delegate to! But you might find a tool that can automate tasks that are urgent but not important.

You won't need military efficiency to have a successful organization day. But thinking of your tasks through this lens might help you determine what's really worth your limited time.

Also schedule your day to take best advantage of your most-productive times. Even though I'm a night owl, I like to front-load work days with tasks so I can gather momentum and capitalize on being fresh.

GATHER MATERIALS

You want to maximize your organization day. Trips to the store or time spent rummaging through your house for supplies can be a huge time suck. So once you have a goal, collect any physical items you'll need: file folders and tabs, a scanner, form printouts, a filing cabinet, boxes/papers/photos/documents/media cards you want to sort, refreshments, items to make the day more fun or comfortable, and so on. Don't forget to charge the electronic items you'll need throughout the day, and obtain any needed replacement batteries.

DURING THE DAY

It's finally here—your big organizing day. Here's how to make it productive and efficient.

TAKE SHORT BREAKS

You're not a machine. To do your best work, you need to periodically rest to keep your brain and body sharp.

What does that look like? When looking at a whole day, I often schedule breaks like I did when I worked an hourly-wage retail job. Per company policy, I had to take one 15-minute break every four hours and one 30-minute break every six hours. This model was likely designed to comply with labor laws, but it does create a nice balance of focused work and rest.

Another popular scheduling method is the Pomodoro technique, designed by Francesco Cirillo in the 1980s <www.francescocirillo.com>. In it, you spend 25 minutes straight on a specific task, then break for five minutes. Every four cycles (essentially, every two hours), you take a longer break—say, 15 or 30 minutes. This allows you to enter a space of "deep work" for a concentrated amount of time, then giving you dedicated time to lose focus.

See the sidebar on page 16 for sample day schedules using each technique. In the chart, the one I use is called the "15/4 Method."

14 Organization Projects You Can DO IN A DAY

☑ Standardize file names (either digital or physical)

☑ Standardize place names, dates, or personal names in your online tree/software program

☑ Color-code folders (either digital or physical)

☑ Fill out new, “clean” research forms to outline the scope of your research and what progress you’ve made

☑ Scan several piles of photos or documents

☑ Sort through a specific box(es) of unorganized materials

☑ Create an inventory of records you have for each direct-line ancestor, and what you still need

☑ Download record images of a certain type (e.g., federal censuses) for all known direct-line ancestors; name and sort them as you go

☑ Audit your existing filing system: How are your files currently organized? What is the scope of your “unorganized” pile?

☑ Gather all your physical research—research notes, copies of records, boxes of unsorted materials, photos—in one place

☑ Collect digital files from multiple drives/servers onto one device

☑ Create a specific genealogy report: Retrieve and curate facts. (Leave any additional research items for another time.)

☑ Create and implement a digital backup system: Investigate options and make any needed purchases. Create a schedule for regular backups

☑ Move data between trees or software: Ensure materials copied over correctly, and re-attach media and sources as necessary

5 PROJECTS to AVOID

The following goals will set you up for failure:

☒ **Scanning *all* photos or documents:** This may be physically impossible in your allotted time, depending on the speed of your scanner and how many things need scanned. Instead, outline a specific set of files or papers to work on that day. Alternatively, make your goal auditing your photo/document collection and creating a scanning plan that you’ll work through later.

☒ **Creating *and* implementing a new filing system:** Designing an organization system in a day is one thing, but sorting all your files into it in those same eight hours is another. You’ll likely only have time to do one or the other.

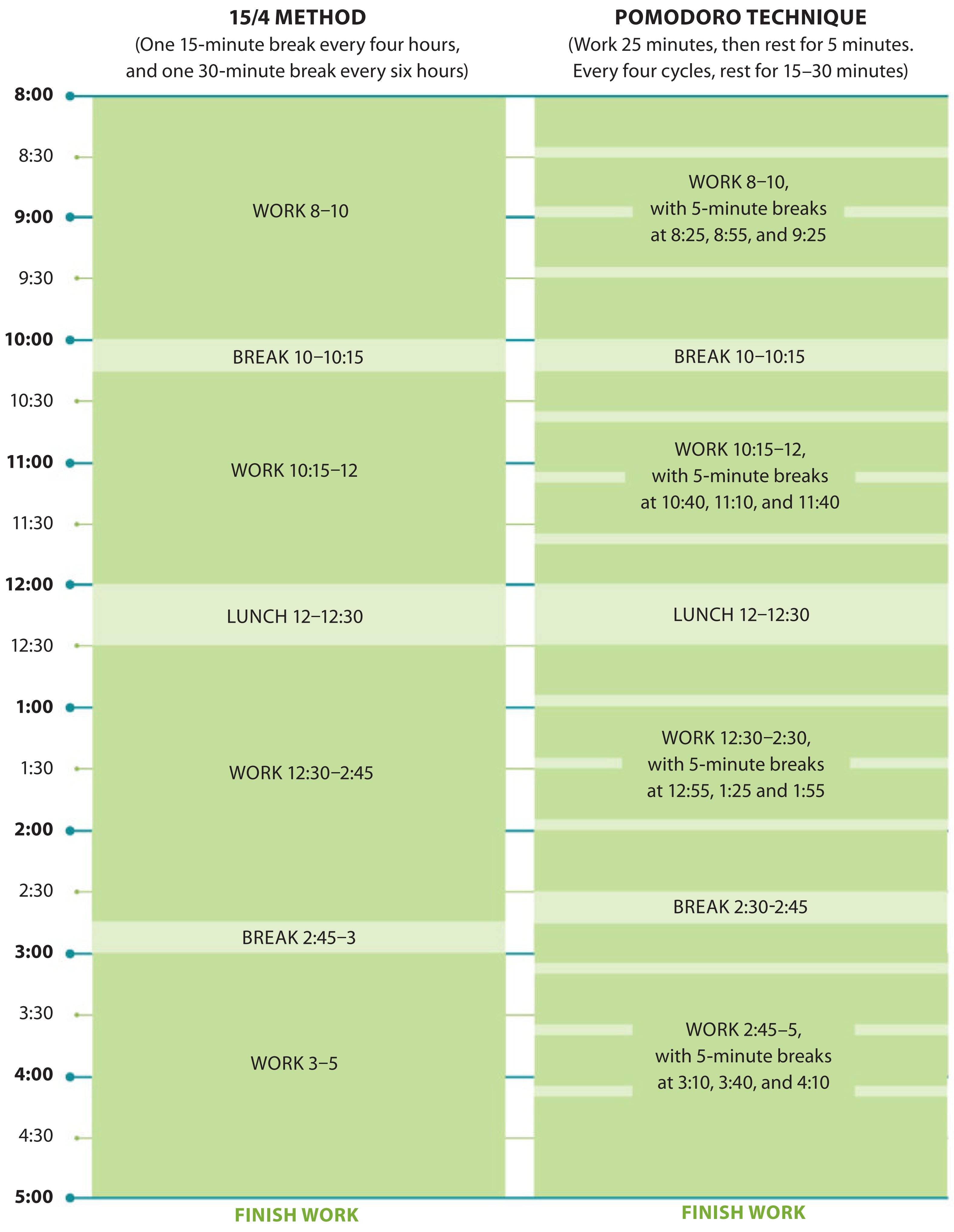
☒ **Adding metadata to *all* digital files:** This could be hundreds or even thousands of files. A more-reasonable goal would be reviewing your digital files and developing templates for file names and metadata.

☒ **Adding source citations to *all* materials:** As before, you could simply review the current status of your research and make list of what documentation is still needed.

☒ **Doing actual records research:** This is far too open-ended. You could easily get pulled in different directions, using up your limited time. As with other distractions, make a list of to-do items that surface as you’re organizing.

YOUR ORGANIZATION DAY: Two Sample Schedules

To do your best work, you'll need to take breaks. This article describes two different models for how to do so. Here's what each might look like in practice during an 8-to-5 session.



15/4 METHOD
(One 15-minute break every four hours, and one 30-minute break every six hours)

POMODORO TECHNIQUE
(Work 25 minutes, then rest for 5 minutes. Every four cycles, rest for 15–30 minutes)

8:00
8:30
9:00
9:30
10:00
10:30
11:00
11:30
12:00
12:30
1:00
1:30
2:00
2:30
3:00
3:30
4:00
4:30
5:00
WORK 8–10
BREAK 10–10:15
WORK 10:15–12
LUNCH 12–12:30
WORK 12:30–2:45
BREAK 2:45–3
WORK 3–5
FINISH WORK
WORK 8–10, with 5-minute breaks at 8:25, 8:55, and 9:25
BREAK 10–10:15
WORK 10:15–12, with 5-minute breaks at 10:40, 11:10, and 11:40
LUNCH 12–12:30
WORK 12:30–2:30, with 5-minute breaks at 12:55, 1:25 and 1:55
BREAK 2:30-2:45
WORK 2:45–5, with 5-minute breaks at 3:10, 3:40, and 4:10
FINISH WORK

Find all ***Family Tree***'s tips for organizing your research at <www.familytreemagazine.com/organize-genealogy>.

MAKE IT FEEL SPECIAL

Treat yourself to a fun breakfast or lunch, or make dinner plans for after. Or maybe drink your favorite coffee or tea (or something stronger later in the day!). While you work, you could listen to your favorite or long-anticipated music, TV show, podcast, or audiobook.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR BODY

Sleep well the night before, and stay well-fed and -hydrated. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. Use a kneeling pad if you'll be on your knees or on the floor, and grab a comfortable chair if you'll be sitting.

AVOID DISTRACTIONS

Stick to your goals (attempting just one at a time), and stay far away from those oh-so-easy "rabbit holes." Only review the materials you're organizing well enough to know what they are.

"Focus is incredibly important," Carney says. "The best advice I give to clients is to finish the project they're working on before you move onto another. If you start with too much, you'll get overwhelmed and end up with a bigger project than you started with."

As stated earlier, *do not try to do any actual research on this day*. As research tasks arise, make a list of to-do items for another time. For example, while organizing my family's home files, I made a list of files that I needed to obtain physical copies of—I didn't interrupt my organizing project to print them out.

CREATE A SYSTEM THAT WORKS FOR *YOU*

If part of your project is creating an organization system for your research, think about how you'll use that system moving forward. Make decisions based on the tools and goals you're already familiar with.

That system will look different for everyone; one size won't fit all. "Don't try to take on something that isn't intuitive for you and that you aren't comfortable with," says Philibert-Ortega. "You are successful at organizing when you choose systems that you will return to time and time again and not what someone tells you, you should use."

AFTER THE DAY

Even when your organization day is done, you can take some steps to stay organized and keep moving your research forward.

DOCUMENT YOUR JOURNEY

Take before and after pictures to share with family or on social media. This will help you feel accomplished and hold yourself accountable—and maybe even inspire others to take on a similar project.

ACCEPT ANY LIMITATIONS

Don't beat yourself if you didn't accomplish everything you wanted. Work will never fully be done; even the most organized, "put-together" genealogist has unorganized parts of their research.

Some progress is better than none. You're just competing against yourself—your ultimate goal is that your research is more organized today than it was yesterday. And you can always schedule another organization day if necessary!

FOLLOW UP ON ANY ACTION ITEMS

If you've followed the advice thus far, you will have made a list of any to-do items that came up during your organization project. These will often be smaller to-do's, but could also be open-ended (like researching a particular family line more).

For Philibert-Ortega, even small increments of time can help. "At the beginning or the end of my work day, I take at least 15 to 30 minutes and organize, whether that's organizing digital files, or going through my paper folders and photographs," she says. "We live in an era where we have so many demands on our time, but most of us can dedicate 15 minutes to focused organization."

MAINTAIN

Don't backslide! Continue to use and develop your organization system. "The most important way to stay organized is to put things away immediately, and not just set it down to do later," Carney says. "This is the no.1 reason people are disorganized. Build up the habit to put things away *right away* in the 'home' you've established." ●

Andrew Koch is the editor of *Family Tree Magazine*. His work desk isn't as organized as he'd like, but he's setting aside an upcoming Saturday to work on it.

Personal Records Inventory

<www.familytreemagazine.com/freebie/personalrecordsinventory>

tip

These two worksheets can serve as frameworks for your one-day organization project, helping you inventory what you've already found. Access typeable, downloadable versions of each at the links provided.

Name of person: ____

Birth date and place: ____

Death date and place: ____

RECORD	SOURCE

Records Checklist

<www.familytreemagazine.com/freebie/free-genealogy-records-checklist>

BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT

☐ apprentice and indenture records
☐ company newsletters
☐ doctors' and midwives' journals
☐ insurance records
☐ merchants' account books
☐ patents
☐ professional licenses
☐ railroad, mining and factory records
☐ records of professional organizations
☐ Social Security applications (SS5)

CEMETERY AND FUNERAL HOME

☐ burial records
☐ grave-relocation records
☐ tombstone inscriptions

CENSUSES

☐ agriculture schedules (1850–1880)
☐ American Indian
☐ Civil War veterans schedules (1890)
☐ defective, dependent and delinquent (DDD) schedules (1880)
☐ federal censuses (1790–1950)
☐ manufacturing/industry schedules (1810–1820, 1850–1880)
☐ mortality schedules (1850–1880)
☐ school censuses
☐ slave schedules (1850, 1860)
☐ social statistics schedules (1850–1880)
☐ state/territorial and local censuses

CHURCH

☐ baptism and christening records
☐ confirmation records
☐ congregational histories
☐ marriage banns
☐ meeting minutes
☐ membership, admission and removal records
☐ ministers' journals

COURT

☐ adoption records
☐ bastardy cases
☐ coroners' files
☐ criminal records
☐ custody papers
☐ estate inventories
☐ guardianship papers
☐ insanity/commitment orders
☐ licenses and permits
☐ marriage bonds, licenses and certificates
☐ military discharges
☐ minute books
☐ name changes
☐ naturalizations
☐ property foreclosures
☐ voter registrations
☐ wills
☐ wolf-scalp bounties

DIRECTORIES

☐ biographical
☐ city
☐ occupational/professional
☐ telephone

HOME SOURCES

☐ baby books
☐ baptism and confirmation certificates
☐ birth certificates
☐ checkbooks and bank statements
☐ death records
☐ diaries and journals
☐ family Bibles
☐ funeral/memorial cards
☐ heirlooms and artifacts
☐ letters and postcards
☐ medical records
☐ photographs
☐ prayer cards
☐ recipe books
☐ school report cards
☐ scrapbooks
☐ wedding albums
☐ wills
☐ yearbooks

IMMIGRATION

☐ alien registration cards
☐ citizenship papers
☐ passenger lists
☐ passports and passport applications

INSTITUTIONAL

☐ almshouses
☐ fraternal associations
☐ hospitals
☐ orphanages
☐ police registers
☐ prisons
☐ schools
☐ work-farms

LAND AND PROPERTY

☐ deeds
☐ grants and patents
☐ homestead records
☐ mortgages and leases
☐ plat maps
☐ surveys
☐ tax rolls
☐ warrants

MILITARY

☐ draft records
☐ pension applications
☐ records of relocation and interment camps
☐ service records

NEWSPAPERS

☐ birth announcements
☐ classified advertisements
☐ engagement, marriage and anniversary announcements
☐ ethnic newspapers
☐ family reunion announcements
☐ immigrant ship notices
☐ gossip and advice columns
☐ legal notices
☐ local news
☐ obituaries/death notices
☐ runaway notices (slaves, indentured servants, wives)
☐ unclaimed-mail notices

PUBLISHED SOURCES

☐ compiled genealogies
☐ genealogical periodicals
☐ local histories
☐ record abstracts and transcriptions

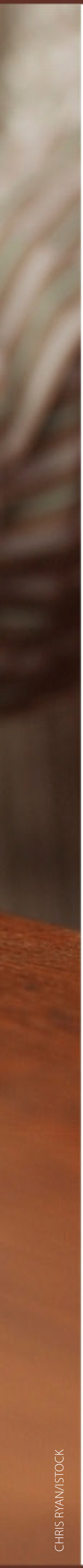
VITAL

☐ amended birth certificates
☐ birth certificates
☐ delayed birth certificates
☐ death certificates
☐ marriage licenses and certificates
☐ stillbirth certificates
☐ divorce/annulment decrees

Witness Testimony

Take your research down new paths by studying the witnesses and bondsmen in the "background" of records.

by ROBYN N. SMITH


CHRIS RYAN/ISTOCK

As was typical for many children, I gleefully spent summers visiting my grandparents, along with my older brother. My granddad took us out on the water in his motorboat, and my grandmother set up the little blue plastic pool in the yard where we splashed away the hot day.

She would also send us on errands to the local Kroger grocery store. One day my grandmother said to me, "Be sure to get a quart of milk, some bread, and some canned tuna," as she pressed a few dollars into my sweaty palms and hurried us on our way to the store. But I was preoccupied, sidetracked by the cute mailboy making his way towards the house. It's no surprise that I forgot even the few items on the list that day.

Thankfully, I had a witness—someone else who could corroborate what was said and done. My brother, unmoved by the curly-headed boy, quickly recounted the items we were responsible to bring home. I didn't know I was getting an early lesson in the value of witnesses, one that I would later apply to researching the ancestors of those same grandparents.

As genealogists, we emphasize scouring each source, mining for details that may initially seem unimportant. The presence of witnesses or bondsmen in records is one such detail that we can't afford to miss. Though they may have a surname we don't recognize, these "side actors" become tiny threads that, when pulled, can reveal a world of information we never expected to find.

Here's why and how you should pay attention to witnesses and others mentioned in records. And the case studies on pages 22 and 23 will show how these individuals can help your research.

KEY DEFINITIONS

For genealogical purposes, a **witness** is someone who saw an event happen. Like my brother ahead of that grocery store visit, a witness stands beside us and can attest to what took place. This means they have firsthand knowledge of an event. In a world of skeptics to every conceivable action, witnesses are critical, and provide verification for others who are not present at the time.

A **bondsman** (or surety) is also a witness. But they have a more-active role in the event, making a financial guarantee that they'll support the other person (bondholder) in fulfilling their obligations and/or complete the terms of an agreement themselves if the bondholder fails to do so. Like loan co-signers today, bondsmen were often close family members—you wouldn't make a financial guarantee for someone you don't know well!

Certain documents tended to require witnesses or bondsmen:

- Deeds
- Wills
- Marriage bonds or licenses
- Guardianship bonds
- Administrator or executor bonds
- Court appearance bonds
- Civil case records
- Baptisms and christening certificates and registers

In addition, some of the above (as well as military pensions and Southern Claims Commission documents) required witness testimony, even if the witness' physical presence was not required.

WHY WITNESSES?

Witnesses and bondsmen are important in court actions, both today and in the past, providing credibility to legal evidence and added assurance to financial transactions. We can exploit their prominence in records to create portals to the world of our ancestors.

How? As previously stated, witnesses and bondsmen are frequently well-known to those for whom a record is being created. They often form part of a person's "FAN Club," an acronym popularized by genealogist Elizabeth Shown Mills that refers to a person's Friends, Associates and Neighbors. Researching a person's FAN network, also referred to as "cluster research," encourages us to explore people beyond our direct-line ancestors.

Learn more about cluster (and "collateral") research with this guide <www.familytreemagazine.com/research/cluster-collateral-research>.

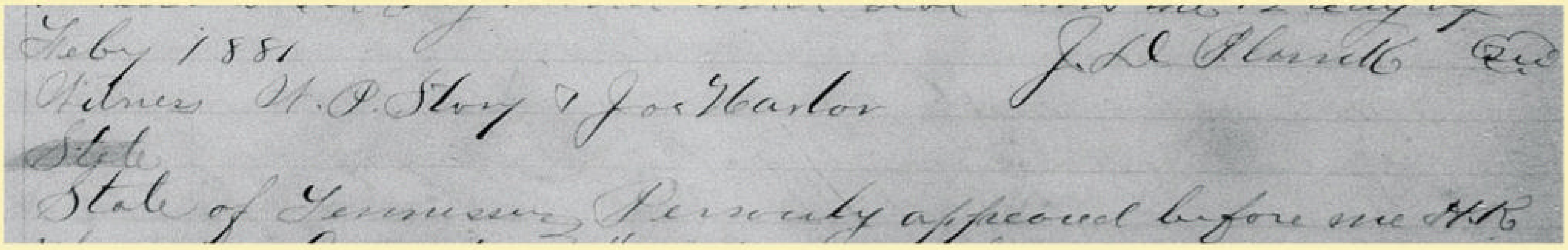
WITNESSES in ACTION

IN-LAW CLUES IN LAND RECORDS

In 1881, J.D. Plunk sold 16 acres of land in Hardin County, Tenn., to SC (Samuel) Holt. The witnesses were W.P. Story and Joe Harbor. I knew from previous research that W.P. (William) Story was a justice of the peace, though that isn't indicated in this document.

But who was Joe Harbor? A little digging revealed that Samuel Holt and Joe Harbor married the Barnes sisters; Samuel's wife was Lucy Barnes, and Joe's wife was her sister Hannah Barnes. The two men were brothers-in-law.

But there is something else worth noting about these two witnesses. The acknowledgment states that Samuel did not come to court to acknowledge the deed, as was commonplace. The two witnesses, W.P. Story and Joe Harbor, did instead. I'd need to research more to determine why that was the case, but it's possible Samuel had died.



Feby 1881 J.D. Plunk Esq

Witness W.P. Story & Joe Harbor

~~State~~

State of Tennessee Personally appeared before me H.K

An 1881 deed transferring land ownership from J.D. Plunk to Samuel Holt. Witnesses: W.P. Story and Joe Harbor

FINDING NEW SIBLINGS IN BONDS

Witnesses and bondsmen have played a key role in some of my biggest discoveries. On 2 April 1896, in Hardin County, Tenn., my great-great-grandfather Mike Fendricks ("M Fendrick") joined in a bond of $1,250 to secure the obligation of Dee Suggs' marriage.

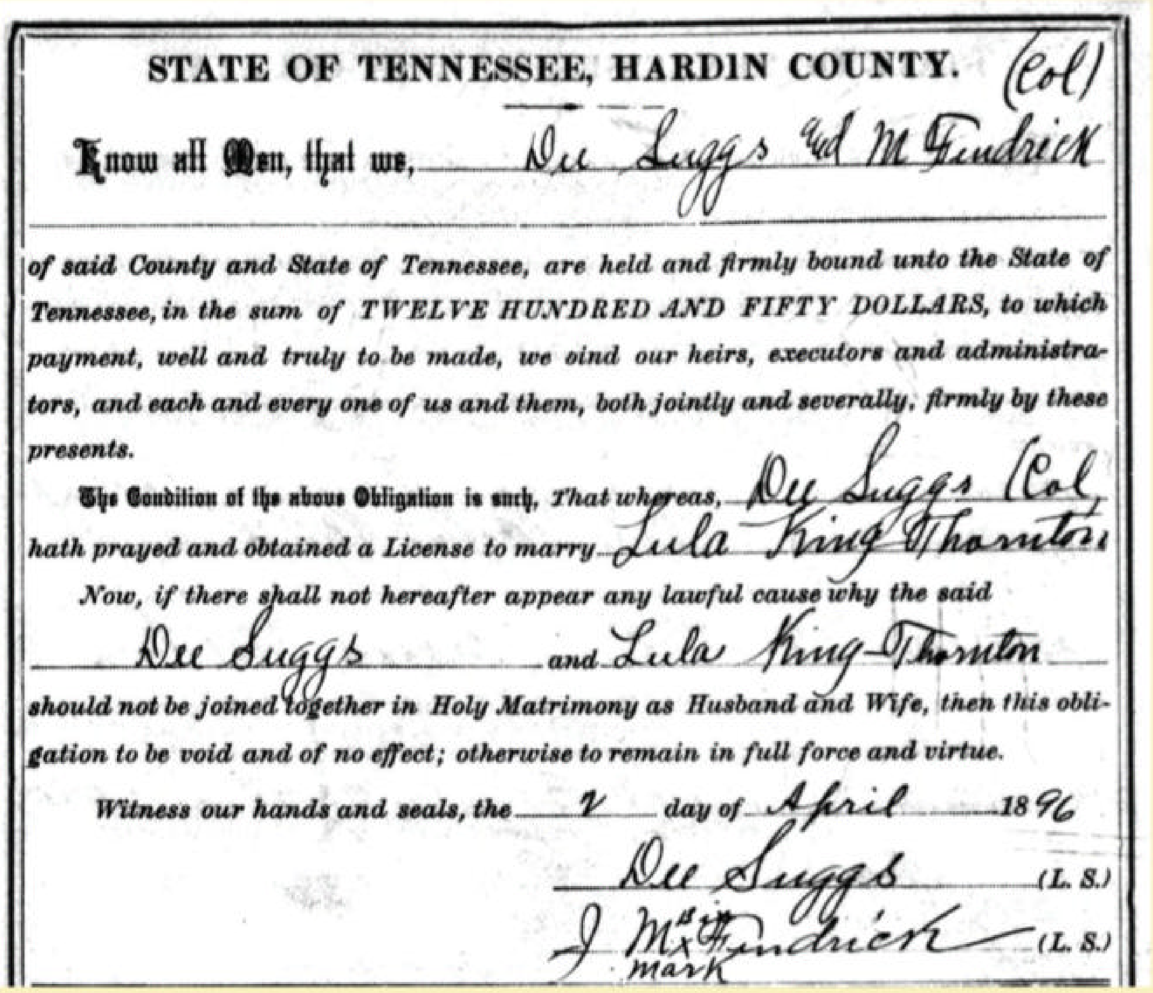
That certainly wasn't the only record I found linking the two men. I noticed that Mike was listed as a boarder in Dee's household in the 1920 census. Additionally, the men jointly signed a trust deed as sharecroppers in 1884.

Why did these men with different surnames appear with such close association? That screams FAN Club.

Years of additional research revealed that the two men were, in fact, half-brothers. Mike and 10-year-old "Dee" (enumerated as Dewitt) lived in the household of their mother, Sofrona Suggs, in Alabama at the time of the 1870 census. And a Freedmen's Bureau labor contract between Thomas Suggs and Sofrona Suggs (called "Frony" in the record) confirmed that Frank, Mike, Caroline and Dee were her children:

"Articles of Agreement made and entered in between Thos Suggs of the first part and a lot of freed people, (to wit), Jack 13 years of age Frony thirty two & her four children, (to wit) Frank 15 years of age Mike 10 years Carry 6 yrs Dee three years of age…"

Further record research and DNA evidence supported the conclusion that Mike chose to use the surname of his biological father (Mike Fendricks), while Dee kept his mother's surname.



STATE OF TENNESSEE, HARDIN COUNTY. (Col)

Know all Men, that we, Dee Suggs and M Fendrick

of said County and State of Tennessee, are held and firmly bound unto the State of Tennessee, in the sum of TWELVE HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS, to which payment, well and truly to be made, we oind our heirs, executors and administrators, and each and every one of us and them, both jointly and severally, firmly by these presents.

The Condition of the above Obligation is such, *That whereas,* Dee Suggs (Col) *hath prayed and obtained a License to marry* Lula King Thornton

Now, if there shall not hereafter appear any lawful cause why the said Dee Suggs *and* Lula King-Thornton *should not be joined together in Holy Matrimony as Husband and Wife, then this obligation to be void and of no effect; otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.*

Witness our hands and seals, the 2 *day of* April 1896

Dee Suggs (L. S.)

M his x Fendrick mark (L. S.)

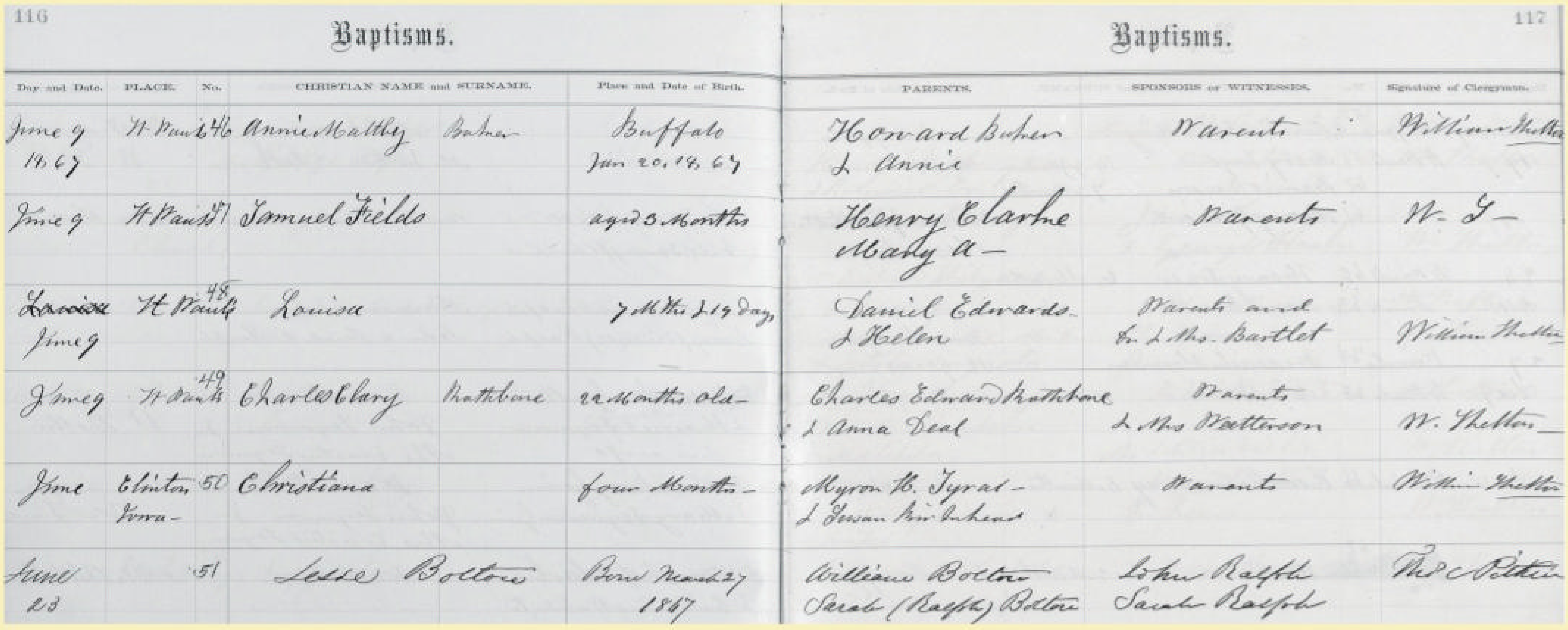
An 1896 marriage bond for Dee Suggs and Lula King-Thornton, which names Mike Fendricks as a bondsman

COURTESY ROBYN N. SMITH

MAIDEN NAMES IN BAPTISM REGISTERS

Baptisms or christenings are especially good sources for witnesses, as we can see from this late 19th-century baptism record from St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Erie County, N.Y. Jesse Bolton was baptized on 23 June 1867. (The year is technically just implied.)

His parents, William and Sarah Bolton, had witnesses (also called sponsors) named John and Sarah Ralph. Sarah's name includes *(Ralph)* in parentheses, implying that was her maiden name. Further research might reveal John and Sarah Ralph to be her parents, or brother and sister-in-law.



116 Baptisms. | Baptisms. 117

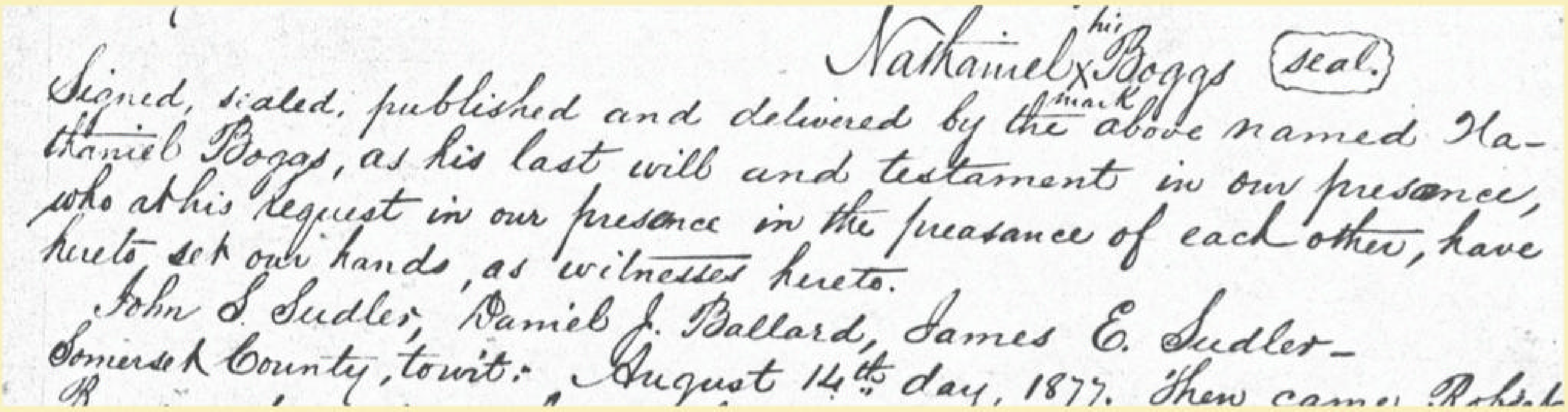
Day and Date.	PLACE.	No.	CHRISTIAN NAME and SURNAME.		Place and Date of Birth.	PARENTS.	SPONSORS or WITNESSES.	Signature of Clergyman.
June 9 1867	St Paul's	46	Annie Maltby	Baker	Buffalo Jan 20, 18 67	Howard Baker & Annie	Parents	William Shelton
June 9	St Paul's	47	Samuel Fields		aged 3 Months	Henry Clarke Mary A—	Parents	W. S—
~~Louise~~ June 9	St Paul's	48	Louisa		7 Mths & 19 days	Daniel Edwards & Helen	Parents and Mr & Mrs Bartlet	William Shelton
June 9	St Paul's	49	Charles Clary	Rathbone	22 Months old	Charles Edward Rathbone & Anna Deal	Parents & Mrs Patterson	W. Shelton
June	Clinton Forra—	50	Christiana		four Months	Myron H. Tyrat— & Susan [illegible]	Parents	William Shelton
June 23		51	Jesse Bolton		Born March 27 1867	William Bolton Sarah (Ralph) Bolton	John Ralph Sarah Ralph	Thos C Potter

A baptism register for St. Paul's Episcopal Church, including the names of the baptized, parents and witnesses

NEIGHBORS IN WILLS

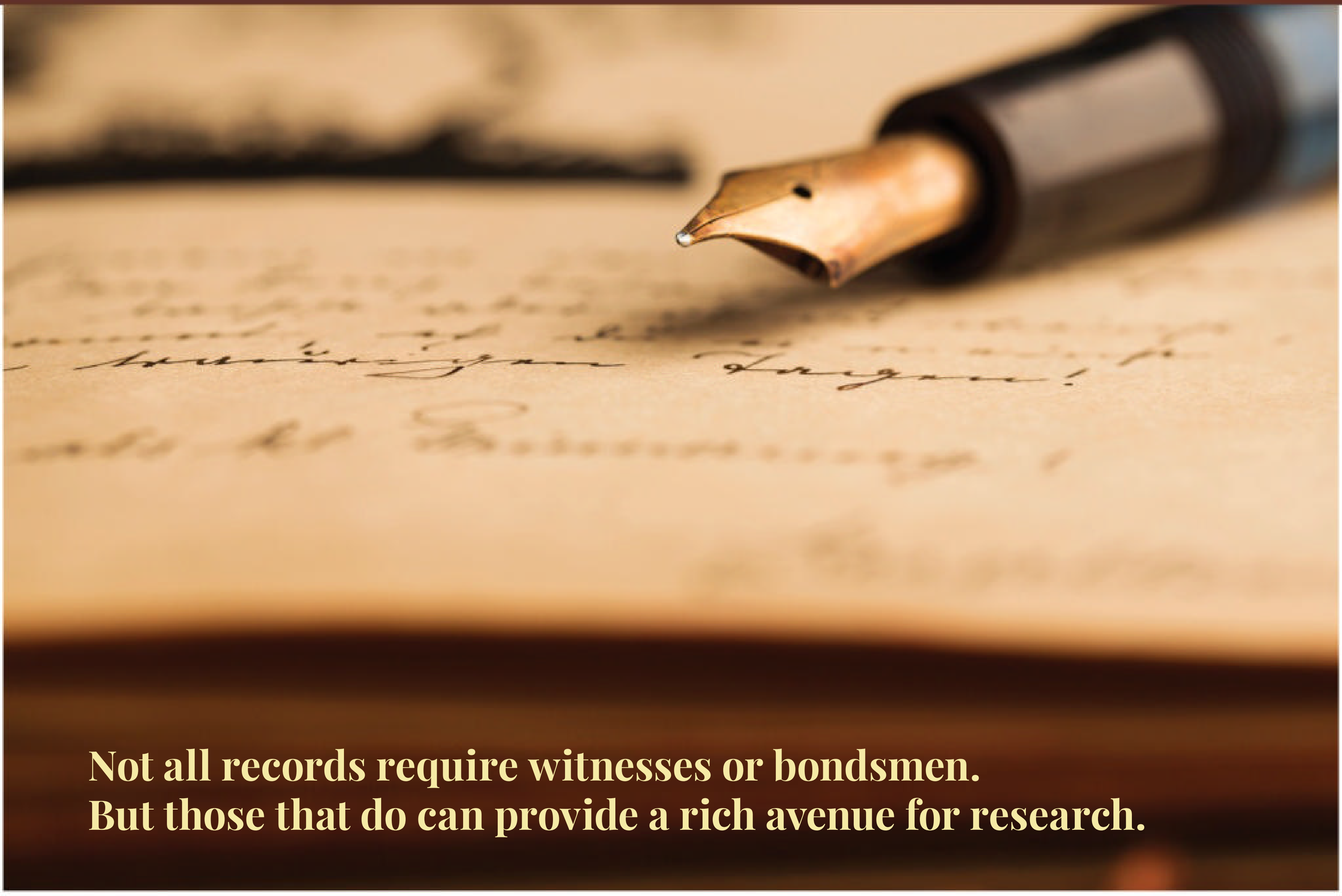
Nathaniel Boggs was a free Black man, living within a fairly large community of other freed people who mainly worked on the water as oystermen, sailors and fishermen. In fact, the area where they lived was called Freetown.

Most free Blacks needed to keep good relationships with local whites, and Nathaniel was no exception. Three men (who, from previous research, I knew were white) witnessed his 1877 will: John S. Sudler, Daniel J. Ballard, and James E. Sudler. A contemporary map shows the three men were Nathaniel's neighbors.



Nathaniel his mark x Boggs (seal.)
Signed, sealed, published and delivered by the above named Nathaniel Boggs, as his last will and testament in our presence, who at his request in our presence in the preasance of each other, have hereto set our hands, as witnesses hereto.
John S. Sudler, Daniel J. Ballard, James E. Sudler—
Somerset County, towit:- August 14th day, 1877. There came

An 1877 will for Nathaniel Boggs. Witnesses: John S. Sudler, Daniel J. Ballard, and James E. Sudler



Not all records require witnesses or bondsmen.
But those that do can provide a rich avenue for research.

People did not live, move, associate, work, worship or marry in isolation. (Neither do we today!) Instead, they lived their lives in networks. As such, FAN Club members may appear in records that are relevant to our ancestors as well. Not all records require witnesses or bondsmen. But those that do can provide a rich avenue for research.

An appearance in "someone else's" record establishes that a person was physically present at a specific time and place, a key goal for genealogists. That, in turn, can help us determine when someone migrated from one country or state to another, or help distinguish one same-named person from another.

Serving as a witness or bondsman can also suggest other information about a person, namely:

- **Age or birth year:** Witnesses and bondsmen usually had to be of legal age, often 18 or 21 years old.
- **Residence:** They often lived near where the event took place.
- **Literacy:** Did the person sign their name, or simply mark it with an *X*? The latter suggests the person couldn't write.

THREE STEPS FOR RESEARCH

Here are some quick steps to researching those witnesses and bondsmen mentioned in records.

1 Transcribe the document

Transcribing information in a record—that is, re-writing its text in another medium—forces us to take time to focus on sources, bringing to light minute details that we might not have noticed if we're struggling to even just read the text. Is the copy legible, and can we clearly make out every word? Does the document include terms that we don't understand?

Genealogy has simple, well-defined rules for transcription; Sunny Morton shares some tips at <www.familytreemagazine.com/strategies/the-toolkit-lost-in-transcription>. Today, tools abound to make the task even simpler. (I especially like the free GenScriber <www.genscriber.com/en>.)

2 Identify names, then research them

Once you have a transcription of the document's text, look for the names of all people mentioned in the document—not just the record subject or people named as witnesses. For the moment, add them to your

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cluster, and research them as if they were all your relatives. Note that people (especially bondsmen) are sometimes listed by first or middle initials and last name; you'll need to do some more research to confirm their identities.

Look for all those people in other records, and try to find information that fleshes out their lives. Consider researching county biographies (often available at a local library or genealogical/historical society), which sometimes name individuals.

Make sure you also look at the few entries before and after your document of interest, which might list other local officials. Some will end up being family members. Others might simply be a county clerk, a lawyer or justice of the peace. Post-nominal letters suggest the person's role in the community and identity as public officials.

Common Witnesses or Bondsmen

- Sons
- Sons-in-law
- Brothers
- Brothers-in-law
- Fathers
- Fathers-in-law
- Uncles
- Male cousins
- Close neighbors
- Fellow church members
- Business associates

3

Research the laws

As genealogists, we need to have a deep understanding of the sources we use, including how and why they were created. Laws governed everything about relevant kinds of records: where, when or if an event was documented; who was required to be present; what information was recorded and how it was formatted; what fees were required; and which officials (such as notaries public) were allowed to perform certain functions. Later laws affected how that information was stored, which government office held custody, and who has access to the records today.

The legal jurisdiction you need to study will vary by record type. State laws, for example, are sometimes recorded in published legal histories of the state.

Laws may differ by state and locality, affecting (for example) what witnesses were required to create a document. Let's compare deed laws in Tennessee and Maryland as an example.

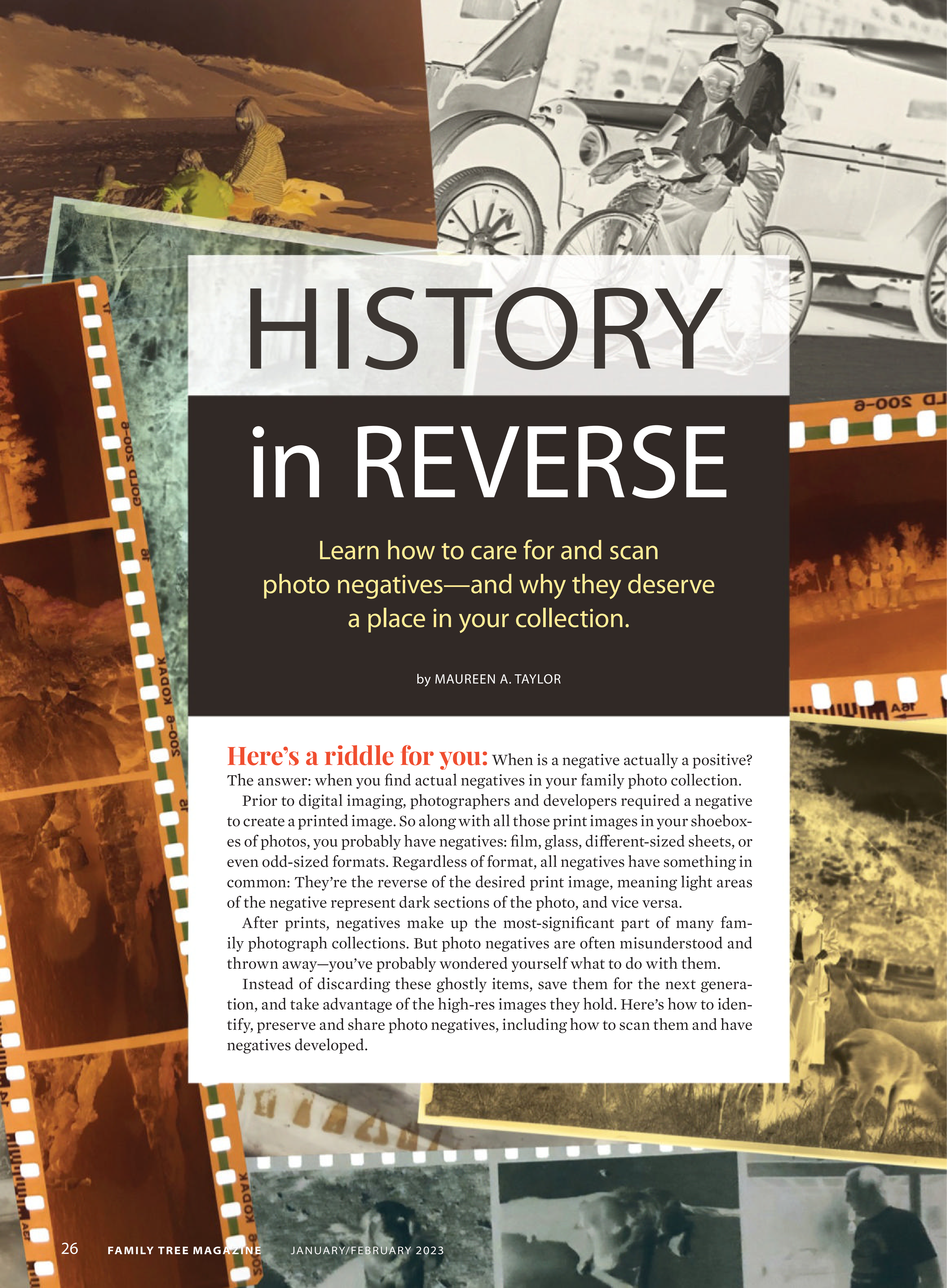
Published in 1871, *A Compilation of the Statute Laws of the State of Tennessee* by W.J. Gilbert described the requirements for deeds that include real estate. It stated: "No deed of conveyance for land … shall be good and available in law … unless the same be acknowledged by the vendor, or proved by two witnesses upon oath." The term "vendor" here referred to the grantor. If the grantor did not acknowledge (i.e., legally testify to) the deed, two witnesses were required.

In comparison, let's look at Maryland in 1879, as published in *Revised Code of the Public General Laws of the State of Maryland, with the Constitution of the State*, compiled by Lewis Mayer, Louis C. Fischer and E.J.D. Cross. By that year, deeds related to real estate only required one witness: "Every deed conveying real estate shall be signed and sealed by the grantor or bargainor, and attested by at least one witness."

• • •

New sources and research strategies like the FAN Club can help us answer lingering questions about ancestors, regardless of location, time period or surname. Witnesses and bondsmen are key members of that FAN Club, uncovering new family members, suggesting spouses for our ancestors, and provide clues to family origin or out-migration. Study them, and you might find the last piece of your family history puzzle. ●

Robyn N. Smith has been researching her family and others' for over 25 years. An engineer by day, Robyn applies those research and problem-solving skills to the field of genealogy. She authors a popular genealogy blog called Reclaiming Kin <www.reclaimingkin.com>.



HISTORY in REVERSE

Learn how to care for and scan photo negatives—and why they deserve a place in your collection.

by MAUREEN A. TAYLOR

Here's a riddle for you: When is a negative actually a positive? The answer: when you find actual negatives in your family photo collection.

Prior to digital imaging, photographers and developers required a negative to create a printed image. So along with all those print images in your shoeboxes of photos, you probably have negatives: film, glass, different-sized sheets, or even odd-sized formats. Regardless of format, all negatives have something in common: They're the reverse of the desired print image, meaning light areas of the negative represent dark sections of the photo, and vice versa.

After prints, negatives make up the most-significant part of many family photograph collections. But photo negatives are often misunderstood and thrown away—you've probably wondered yourself what to do with them.

Instead of discarding these ghostly items, save them for the next generation, and take advantage of the high-res images they hold. Here's how to identify, preserve and share photo negatives, including how to scan them and have negatives developed.

TYPES OF PHOTO NEGATIVES

As photography tech has evolved, so too have formats for the negatives. Here are the most-common types, and what you should know about preserving them.

Glass Negatives

If you've seen a piece of glass that has a coating and light and dark areas, then you've found a glass negative. Glass negatives led to the wider availability of photography, as well as new photo formats: carte des visite, cabinet cards, and paper stereographs.

There were two primary types:

- **Collodion (or wet plate) negatives** are on thick glass and have a gray coating. These were produced by individual photographers as needed in the field from the 1850s to about 1880.
- **Gelatin dry plate negatives** are distinctive for their thin, uniform thickness. Factory-produced, they were sold by the box. They were available from the 1880s through the 1920s, though you can still find negatives at antique shops and through collectors.

Light-sensitive silver halides in the collodion captured and preserved an image during the photographic process. Photographers then stored plates in wooden boxes that had dividers to protect the glass from breaking.

The size of the print corresponded to the size of the negative, and contemporary cameras used specifically sized negatives. For instance, a 5x9-inch negative from the 1870s would produce a print that had the same dimensions. Later, enlarging and reducing devices allowed for photos to be developed at different sizes than the original.

While film negatives gradually replaced glass, glass negatives persisted into the 20th century. Most of our 19th-century family pictures were taken by professional photographers using glass, but amateur photographers also used glass plates. For instance, an 1898 Korona special series camera required a 4x6-inch glass plate. Check out a Facebook group dedicated to glass negative collectors at <www.facebook.com/groups/486930898122276>.

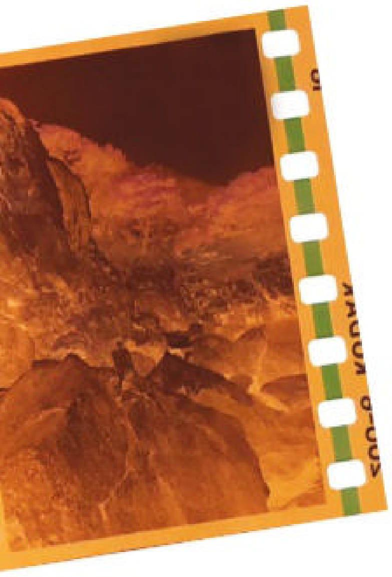
STORING AND PRESERVING

Be careful when handling glass negatives, as they're fragile and have potentially sharp edges. Hold them only by the edges to prevent damage to the emulsion (coating).

Glass plate negatives, being both heavy and fragile, require special storage care. They should be stored upright in a cool, dry place in reinforced archival boxes with dividers to protect the glass from breaking. Because of the cumulative weight, avoid putting too many in a single box, and make sure that the shelf you are storing them on provides adequate support.

Gaylord Archival <www.gaylord.com> sells archival boxes for glass negatives in standard

COLLAGE IMAGES COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS (UPPER RIGHT) AND JULIE BARNETT



sizes. Volara foam lines the bottom and sides of the box to cushion the negatives, and the boxes also feature heavy-weight dividers to prevent negatives from touching each other. You can purchase additional inserts separately.

In addition to breakage, glass negatives are also susceptible to mold. Mold can adhere to glass if the negatives are stored in a damp place, if the emulsion separates from the glass, or the glass chips or cracks. A professionally trained photo conservator can fix some of these issues; the American Institute for Conservation has a finder tool <www.culturalheritage.org/about-conservation/find-a-conservator>.

Film Negatives

The "You push the button, we do the rest" era of amateur photography ushered in the use of film negatives. This is a format familiar to anyone who took pictures in the 20th century as well.

Different cameras required different film sizes. The standard 35mm negative stock survives today (and is, in fact, experiencing a resurgence), but not all formats maintained their popularity or usefulness. The short-lived disc film of 8mm negatives, for example, was first available in 1982, only to be discontinued due to poor picture quality in 1999. By contrast, the Kodak 101 was offered from 1895 all the way until 1956.

Camera-Wiki.org has a chart of film sizes and designations, along with years each was introduced and discontinued <www.camera-wiki.org/wiki/Film_sizes_and_designations>. And Nostalgic Media has a similar guide that goes in more detail about popular formats <www.nostalgicmedia.com/pages/old-film-and-camera-formats>.

In addition to sizes, film negatives have also been made of several different materials over the decades. Here are some of the most prominent from the mid-1880s, with approximate years of use:

- **Gelatin film from Eastman American** (1884–1890): This film has uneven edges and is brittle.
- **Nitrocellulose roll film** (1889–1903): The first roll film was on clear acetate coated with flammable nitrocellouse. It is thin, and prone to curling and wrinkling. (See the separate section on nitrate film.)
- **Gelatin roll film** (1903–1939): Also made with a clear plastic base, this film was coated on both sides with gelatin to prevent curling.
- **Plastic roll film** (1913–1939): This was cut from a sheet by machines. Edges were usually stamped.
- **Modern film** (1939–present): Film in more-recent decades has been coated with clear cellulose acetate or (after 1955) polyester, and marked with "safety" dates. In later decades, both color and black-and-white formats were available.

Photo Negative Formats

Compiled by Rick Crume. A version of this chart appeared in the July/August 2021 issue of *Family Tree Magazine*.

Film	Film Width*	Negative Size(s)**	Description
110 (or Pocket Instamatic) film	16 mm	13x17 mm	Introduced in 1972, 110 is a cartridge-loading film, like 126. The format became popular because cameras were so small.
120 film	61 mm	2.25×3.25 in 56×70 mm 2.25×2.25 in 2.25×1.625 in	Eastman Kodak introduced 120 film for its Brownie No. 2 in 1901. It was the most popular film format in the 1960s.
126 (or Instamatic) film	35 mm	26.5x26.5 mm	Kodak launched Instamatic cameras with a plastic cartridge for easy film-loading in 1963.
127 film	46 mm	40x40 mm 40x30 mm 40x60 mm	Introduced in 1912 with the "Vest Pocket Kodak" folding camera, 127 film made a comeback with the introduction of the inexpensive Kodak Brownie camera in the 1950s and remained popular until the 1960s.
135 (or 35mm) film	35 mm	24x36 mm	The first commercially available 35mm camera was introduced in 1913, but 35mm cameras didn't become popular until the Leica I was introduced in 1925.
220 film	61 mm	2.25×3.25 in 60×70 mm 2.25×2.25 in 2.25×1.625 in	Introduced in 1965, 220 film is similar to 120 film.
240 (or APS) film	24 mm	30.2×16.7 mm	First produced in 1996, Advanced Photo System (APS) film is stored in the original cartridge after it is developed.

*This indicates the width of the physical film.

**This indicates the size of the image captured on the film, not necessarily the size of the print you could have developed using that film.

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STORING AND PRESERVING

Many photo-storing guidelines for prints also apply to negatives: Avoid heat and humidity, and store carefully. High humidity allows mold to grow on negatives, and improper storing can cause negatives to deteriorate faster.

More-detailed guidance depends on the type of negative. Mishandling film negatives isn't as dramatic as dropping a glass plate, but the oils from your hand can leave fingerprints and smudges. (Hold negatives only by the edges, and consider wearing non-latex, powder-free gloves.) In addition, acetate becomes brittle and shrinks, developing bubbles and an odor.

Cool, dry storage is best for all images and negatives; shoot for 50% relative humidity and a stable 68 to 70°F. You obviously can't make your home into a museum, but there are steps you can take to mitigate temperature and humidity shifts. For instance, avoid storing materials in attics, garages or basements.

Color film negatives can be stored in a conventional freezer with Gaylord's Photo & Negative Cold Storage Kit, which includes an exterior humidity indicator that checks conditions. This will slow deterioration. Materials stored in a freezer take approximately three hours to safely warm to room temperature.

As with prints and glass negatives, film negatives should be stored in archival-safe sleeves, then vertically in boxes. Negatives vary in size, but try to purchase non-PVC, polyester sleeves of approximately the same size. Print File <www.printlife.com> offers polyethylene sheets for 35mm negatives that can be stored in a notebook.

Nitrate Negatives

Though technically a kind of film, nitrate negatives warrant a section of their own. Unstable and flammable, nitrate includes a chemical that's also used in explosives—making it a format to be wary of.

How dangerous is nitrate? The United States Department of Transportation restricts shipping nitrate because it's considered a fire hazard. And Gaylord Archival advises that nitrate-based film be stored in an appropriate container for flammable materials or an *explosion-proof freezer*. Proper storage and handling diminish the danger.

Your first step should be identifying nitrate film, if possible. Some film actually has the word *nitrate* printed on its edge, but most doesn't. If you suspect you have some, have well-preserved nitrate negatives copied by a local reputable photo-conservation lab. (Confirm that the lab accepts such materials first.)

Signs of deterioration include discoloration, brittleness, and bubbling, as well as a vinegary smell. Nitrate that's sticky and powdery should be immediately discarded. For more information, see "Film Preservation 101: Is Nitrate Film Really Dangerous?" on the National Archives website <unwritten-record.blogs.archives.gov/2018/12/10/film-preservation-101-is-nitrate-film-really-dangerous>

Do *not* try to set a controlled burn on a piece of nitrate film. In fact, don't expose nitrate film to heat or humidity at all. Fire codes in most communities specifically mention how to dispose of nitrate.

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SCANNING AND REVERSING NEGATIVES

In addition to simply storing negatives, you can also use them to bolster your photo collection. Nancy Desmond of MemoryWeb <www.memoryweb.me> advises keeping negatives because you'll be able to make new prints of better quality than existing ones. For instance, 1970s prints are a bit fuzzy due to a linen pattern on their surfaces. But if you digitize the original negative and convert it to positive, you'll have a crisp new image without discoloration or pattern.

In addition, you may not have prints of all the negatives in your collection. Start by matching up the negatives with existing prints to see what's missing. Take note of any negatives that are missing a print, and develop a plan to scan the negative and print.

The wide availability of scanners today makes this possible. Anyone can scan negatives at home using a flatbed scanner or your smart phone. All-in-one machines (scanner, fax machine, and copier), and handheld scanners will not produce a good negative scan.

But some apps, such as Photomyne <www.photomyne.com>, have patented technology that allows one to reverse an image by photographing it. You can also reverse a negative using the edit feature on some smartphones' camera apps, or within MemoryWeb.

tip

If you don't want to scan negatives yourself (or don't have the equipment to do so), both ScanMyPhotos <www.scanmyphotos.com> and LegacyBox <www.legacybox.com> offer paid scanning of 35mm negatives.

Learn more about scanning negatives and other hard-to-scan items <www.familytreemagazine.com/preservation/scanning-negatives-slides-large-documents>.

Before scanning, clean your negative and the glass of your scanner with compressed air to remove dust. Be careful with the fragile surface of glass negatives; rather than using the compressed air, fix any flaws "in post" with photo-editing programs.

Many flatbed scanners have covers with a white undersurface. If yours doesn't, cover the negative with a white paper to maintain contrast. You can scan the whole strip of negatives or the individual frames, but never cut apart strip negatives. Keep them as they are.

Scan all negatives at a minimum of 600 DPI, and save them as TIFF files. (Higher-res is better, if you can manage it.) You'll need to back up these large files to either a portable SSD hard drive or cloud-based storage like Permanent.org <www.permanent.org> or iCloud <www.icloud.com>.

DEVELOPING NEGATIVES

Videos of people purchasing cameras and finding undeveloped film in them are all over social media. You might have undeveloped film yourself that you've forgotten about, or an ancestor's camera that was used to take pictures over time but never developed.

The good news is that you can still develop certain film formats. But your success level in developing film to get good-quality prints will depend on the age of the film, the format it's in, how it was stored, and whether a local store has access to the proper chemicals.

Given how popular digital photography has become, finding a store that offers photo-developing and -printing can be difficult, especially when it involves older stock. If you're

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lucky enough to still live near a camera store, ask them if they offer that service.

The Darkroom <www.thedarkroom.com/old-rolls-film-developing> is one service that specializes in developing older rolls of film. Once they scan your negatives, they offer a link for you to review your images before deciding what to do next. Look over The Darkroom's website to learn more about their services and set appropriate expectations.

Don't despair if you own some undeveloped disc film. Dwayne's Photo <www.dwaynesphoto.com/site/services> can develop some of it. (Specifically, disc film of a certain type that was manufactured after 1973.) Like The Darkroom, they also offer processing for 110, 126, 127 and APS film, plus 35mm film.

Once you've got digital images (either by scanning or having them developed), sharing your new photos online is easy. Attach them to an email, or post them on social media. Upload them to a shared collaborative file on a website like Permanent.org, or an app like MemoryWeb. However, you do it, your family will be grateful for your effort.

• • •

Negatives can reveal of piece of your family's missing picture history, especially if the photographer never printed the images or the original prints have disappeared. They could be evidence of a long-deceased family member who captured everyday life in their family or their community. Revisiting the past by diving into photo negatives is well worth the effort. ●

Maureen A. Taylor, the Photo Detective <www.maureentaylor.com>, helps clients with photo-related genealogical problems. Her pioneering work in historical photo research has earned her the title "the nation's foremost historical photo detective" by *The Wall Street Journal* and appearances on "The View," "The Today Show," "Pawn Stars," and others.

Organizing Digital Photos

Once you've scanned your photo negatives, how should you sort them? Karen Edwards provides six steps for managing digital photos at <www.familytreemagazine.com/organization/organizing-and-preserving-digital-photos>:

1 Consolidate your photos

Transfer photos from your various devices onto just one: your laptop or desktop computer. Be sure to download files from any cloud storage, too.

2 Establish a filing system (and stick to it!)

Create a file- and folder-naming convention, and start labeling and sorting your photos accordingly. This will require some time investment upfront, but having a system will make your photos much easier to find. You might organize by date, event or family—the most important thing is to be consistent. Delete any unwanted files: blurry photos, duplicates, and so on.

3 Focus on metadata

Determine if your photo-organizing software allows for face-tagging or embedding other data into your files. This will help future family members identify who's who in a photo.

4 Create backups

Make any edits only to a *copy* of a photo; leave a version of the original untouched. Back up your files using a cloud service such as Backblaze <www.backblaze.com> or Carbonite <www.carbonite.com>. Some programs allow for regular, automated backups, but you may need to manually sync.

You might also back up your files to an external hard drive. Keep the drive in a different physical location than your laptop or desktop computer to prevent total loss from theft, fire, flood or other disaster.

5 Keep your system up to date

Technology is constantly changing. Make sure your photo storage does, too, to keep up with the latest media. Floppy disks, CD-ROMs and even USB flash drives were all once the pinnacle of digital storage—and most new computers today have no way of reading them. Transfer your files to new media (and file formats, if necessary) as technology advances.

6 Share with future generations

Treat your photo collection like you would any other heirloom. Leave behind information on where your external hard drive is located, any cloud servers your photos are stored on, and the necessary login information. Consider making prints of your favorite photographs, or compiling some into a photo book.

RESEARCH GUIDE

ALABAMA

by SUSAN MARTIN

WELCOME TO "SWEET HOME ALABAMA," where southern hospitality and beautiful landscapes abound, from the Appalachian Mountains foothills to the sugar-white beaches of the southern Gulf shores. Alabama's beauty complements the uniqueness of her people, culture and history.

Use this guide to dive deep into the pivotal moments that forever redefined the state. What Alabama has to offer might surprise you.

ROLL TIDES OF HISTORY

By the time the Spanish explored Mobile Bay in 1519, the primary indigenous groups in Alabama were the Chickasaw, the Cherokee, the Creek (Muskogee) and the Choctaw. Spaniard Hernando De Soto's expedition for gold a few decades later led him and his men through the area, drawing them into conflict with the Choctaw and Creek.

European settlement remained sparse until 1702, when the French arrived at the Gulf Coast and founded the city of Mobile. France governed what is now Alabama (plus much of the "Old Southwest") until 1763, when it surrendered its territories east of the Mississippi River to Great Britain. It was during this era, in 1719, that Port Dauphin in Mobile Bay received the first ship of enslaved Africans in the area.

To avoid the Revolutionary War, many British sympathizers settled in the Alabama area. They were followed by cotton planters from Georgia, Virginia and the Carolinas. Britain lost the Revolution in 1783 and ceded the Mobile area to Spain, with the remainder of present-day Alabama becoming part of Georgia.

A longstanding dispute over territorial boundaries between the United States and Spain led to Pinckney's Treaty (1795), in which the Spanish formally ceded much of central Alabama and Mississippi. From that, the United States formed Mississippi Territory (then including Alabama) in 1798.

Extreme southern Alabama remained in Spanish hands. Tensions flared again during the War of 1812, when US forces led by General Andrew Jackson drove the Spanish from Mobile. The United States then annexed West Florida in 1813.

General Jackson also defeated the Creek at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in 1814. Over the next 20 years, the Creek and other indigenous tribes were forced from their lands through cessions and marches (such as the Trail of Tears). This opened the area for white settlement.

Early in the 1800s, emigrants from the Carolinas and Virginia came to the central and western parts of Alabama (especially along the Tombigbee and Black Warrior Rivers), and the Scots-Irish from Tennessee settled the Tennessee Valley district in northern Alabama. Many brought enslaved people with them.

The influx of settlers led to the formation of Alabama Territory in 1817, then statehood in 1819. St. Stephens was the temporary seat of government, followed by Huntsville, Cahaba and Tuscaloosa. The present capital, Montgomery, became so in 1846.

Before the Civil War, Alabama tried to industrialize its economy. Still, most investments remained in cotton and enslaved people, who comprised roughly 50% of the population by 1860. The Alabama Department of Archives and History <digital.archives.alabama.gov> has digital collections related to the enslaved and emancipated, including 1867 and 1875 voter registration records.

FAST FACTS

STATEHOOD:
1819

FIRST FEDERAL CENSUS:
1830

BIRTH AND DEATH RECORDS BEGIN:
1881 (county); 1908 (state)

MARRIAGE RECORDS BEGIN:
varies (county); 1936 (state)

CONTACT FOR VITAL RECORDS:
AL Public Health,
Center for Health Statistics

> Alabama's beauty complements the uniqueness of her people, culture and history.

Alabama seceded from the Union in 1861 and joined the Confederacy. Notable clashes in the state include the Battles of Mobile Bay and Fort Blakeley, both near Mobile. Alabama was readmitted in 1868.

Alabama's economy recovered slowly from the devastation of the Civil War. Sharecropping emerged, and with it came an even greater dependence on cotton crops. From 1880 to 1900, the state's natural resources gave it an advantage over neighboring states in attracting investment and industry.

The "Great Migration" of African Americans from the South to cities in the north and west occurred from 1910 to 1970. Through it, African Americans fled racial violence and the oppression of Jim Crow laws in favor of economic and educational opportunities in other parts of the country.

Indeed, Alabama became the center of national attention during the civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s. Many of the movement's seminal moments—the Montgomery bus boycotts, the march from Selma to Montgomery, and battles over the end of racial segregation in schools—took place in the state. The University of Alabama Libraries Special Collections <www.lib.ua.edu/libraries/hole> holds items relevant to African American research, including a digital collection with photographs.

LIVING IN THE YELLOWHAMMER STATE

In 1881, Alabama first began requiring counties to keep birth records. Not all counties complied, and others kept inconsistent records. County probate offices hold any surviving registers.

Statewide birth and death registration began in 1908, with general compliance by the 1920s. Records are available from the Alabama Department of Public Health's website <www.alabamapublichealth.gov/vitalrecords> or in-person at county health departments. Restrictions apply for 125 years from the date of birth and 25 years from the date of death. FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org> holds death records and indexes covering 1908 to 1974 and birth records and indexes covering 1881 to 1930.

Statewide registration of marriage certificates did not begin until 1936, but records were kept at the county level as early as 1799. For pre-1936 marriages, check the county probate office where the marriage license was issued. FamilySearch provides indexes to select Alabama county marriage records from 1809 to 1950 <www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1743384>, and Ancestry.com has typed transcripts of 1814–1935 marriage record indexes created by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) <www.ancestry.com/search/collections/60922>. Alabama has no restrictions on access to marriage records.

The Alabama Center for Health Statistics began filing divorce certificates in 1950. Pre-1950 divorces must be obtained from the circuit court in the county where the divorce was granted.

COUNTING ALABAMIANS

Federal population schedules are available for Alabama beginning in 1830 and continue through 1950. (What is now Alabama was enumerated in 1810 and 1820, but records have been lost.) Schedules for the 1890 census were almost entirely destroyed, though fragments survive for two Alabama townships, Perryville and Severe in Perry County.

Alabama took its own censuses in 1820, 1850, 1855 and 1866, though only the 1866 census has surviving records for every county that existed at the time. The Alabama Department of Archives and History holds the schedules, which have been digitized at FamilySearch and Ancestry.com <www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1576>.

The Alabama Department of Archives and History, FamilySearch and Ancestry.com also have other useful

NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

TIMELINE

1519
Spanish explorers reach the Mobile Bay area

1702
The French found Mobile, the first permanent European settlement in Alabama

1763
England acquires France's land east of the Mississippi River

1783
The new United States controls territory east of the Mississippi River; Spain disputes these claims

1795
Spain cedes central Alabama and Mississippi to the United States in Pinckney's Treaty; the area becomes Mississippi Territory

Little River Canyon National Preserve

1813
US forces defeat the Spanish at Mobile, taking control of the whole modern state

1817
Alabama Territory is established

1819
Alabama becomes the 22nd state

1861
During the Civil War, Alabama secedes from the Union

1903
Houston County is established in the last major change to Alabama's county boundaries

enumerations for Alabamians: slaves schedules (1850, 1860); agricultural, manufacturing and mortality schedules (1850, 1860, 1870, 1880); and special censuses for "defective, dependent, and delinquent" classes (1880).

Note that Native Americans living under tribal authority on reservations were excluded from the federal census until 1900. A Creek census in 1833 (also known as the Parsons and Abbott Roll) <www.accessgenealogy.com/native/parsons-abbott-roll.htm> is the most comprehensive pre-removal document, containing the names of heads of household. The National Archives <www.archives.gov> holds several relevant documents created by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, including the "Dawes Rolls" (which listed members of the "Five Civilized Tribes" living in Oklahoma between 1898 and 1914).

OTHER RECORDS

Trace your Alabama ancestors in these other kinds of documents.

- **Land Records:** Alabama is a public-land state, meaning the federal government held title to all ungranted land and conveyed the land (e.g., sold or given as a bounty or homestead) to individuals, or recognized colonial-era land claims. The Bureau of Land Management's General Land Office <glorecords.blm.gov> holds information about land sales from statehood. Subsequent land sales were recorded in county deed books. FamilySearch and Ancestry.com have land patents and plats, respectively, and the "First Landowners Project" at subscription site HistoryGeo.com <www.historygeo.com/v3/search> offers a surname search for all 67 counties in Alabama.
- **Court Records:** Under the territorial system, justices of the peace handled criminal cases and small-dollar civil disputes. After statehood, county courts had concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit courts in actions involving debt, trespass, assault, and battery. Surviving records are held at the county courthouses, though many courthouses have fallen victim to fires and other natural disasters over the years. (The ADAH's website has a map indicating courthouses destroyed by fire <archives.alabama.gov/research/images/courthouse_fires.jpg>.)
- **Probate Records:** The "orphans court" of each county carried out probate functions before the formation of separate probate courts in 1850. These appointed guardians, granted letters of administration and probated wills, in addition to managing estates. Like court records, probate records are held at the county level, with collections on FamilySearch and Ancestry.com.

Susan Martin holds a master's degree in history and education and is the founder of the Alabama-based research company, Relative Genealogy <www.relativegenealogy.com>.

TOOLKIT

Websites

Alabama History at Home <alabamahistoryhome.org>

AlabamaMosaic <www.alabamamosaic.org>

ALGenWeb <www.algenweb.org>

Cyndi's List: Alabama <www.cyndislist.com/us/al>

Encyclopedia of Alabama <encyclopediaofalabama.org>

FamilySearch Research Wiki: Alabama <www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Alabama,_United_States_Genealogy>

Linkpendium: Alabama <www.linkpendium.com/al-genealogy>

Publications

History of Alabama and Incidentally of Georgia and Mississippi: From the Earliest Period, 2 volumes by Albert James Pickett (Walker and James) <www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/2614901>

Researching African American Genealogy in Alabama by Frazine Taylor (NewSouth)

Rivers of History: Life on the Coosa, Tallapoosa, Cahaba, and Alabama by Harvey H. Jackson III (University of Alabama Press)

Tracing Ancestors Among the Five Civilized Tribes by Rachel Mills Lennon (Genealogical Publishing Co.)

Tracing Your Alabama Past by Robert Scott Davis (University Press of Mississippi)

Archives & Organizations

Alabama Department of Archives and History <archives.alabama.gov>

Alabama Genealogical Society <www.algensoc.org>

Alabama Historical Association <alabamahistory.net>

Birmingham Public Library <www.bplonline.org/resources/genealogy>

The National Archives at Atlanta <archives.gov/atlanta>

Samford University Library Special Collections <library.samford.edu/special>

University of Alabama Library Special Collections <lib.ua.edu/libraries/hoole>

RESEARCH GUIDE

OREGON

by JANICE HANDSAKER

OREGON TERRITORY WAS CALLED "PIONEER'S Paradise" because of its rich and fertile farm land. But Oregon Trail pioneers also found high desert, valleys, mountain ranges, rivers and the Pacific Ocean, each offering their own abundance of opportunities.

Read on for more on your Oregonian ancestors—both those who came via the famous Oregon Trail, and those who arrived via other means.

TRAILBLAZING HISTORY

Dozens of different Native American tribes lived in what is now Oregon at the time of contact with Europeans. Notable groups included the Chinookan, Kalapuya, Tillamook, Nez Percé, Bannock, Cayuse and Umatilla.

Spanish explorers made the first European sightings of Oregon as early as the mid-1500s, seeking the fabled "Northwest Passage" shipping route that would more easily connect Asia and Europe. But more-regular exploration didn't take place until the likes of Spaniard Juan Pérez in 1774 and British explorer James Cook in 1778.

In 1804, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark led their Corps of Discovery expedition from Missouri west towards what is now Oregon. Their goal, too, was to find the most "direct and practical" route to the Pacific Ocean for the purposes of commerce, as well as report on the flora and fauna they found in the newly purchased Louisiana Territory.

Beginning in 1818, Great Britain and the United States shared joint sovereignty over the Oregon Country. But to better stake its claim, the US government sought to flood the area with American settlers. Tensions between the two countries flared, but were resolved peacefully a few years later with the Oregon Treaty that set the boundary at the 49th parallel.

Missionaries were among the first people of European descent to permanently settle in Oregon. Methodist Jason Lee and the Presbyterian Whitman and Spalding families each led parties that founded settlements there in the 1830s.

In 1843, the newly formed Oregon Provisional Government began offering 320 acres of land to any white settler over the age of 18 (and 640 acres to a married couple). The U.S. Congress followed with the Oregon Donation Land Act of 1850, resulting in nearly 7,500 claims.

This spurred "Oregon fever," and one of the largest mass migrations in US history. Over the next 20 years, between 300,000 and 400,000 settlers heeded the call "Go west, young man," braving the 2,000-mile Oregon Trail to Willamette Valley. The vast majority traveled to Oregon overland by wagon, but some arrived by ship via Panama and San Francisco or Astoria (in Oregon Country). Later migrants—such as those coming from the transcontinental railroad, completed in 1869—came by rail.

To help manage the population boom, Congress created Oregon Territory in 1848. At the time, it included modern Washington, Idaho and parts of Montana and Wyoming (all of which split off as Washington Territory in 1853). Oregon entered the Union as the 33rd state on 14 February 1859.

Oregon was one of the last states admitted to the Union before the outbreak of the Civil War, and some 2,000 Oregonians served in the conflict. Though the state was far from the main theater of war, Oregon was the site of clashes between Union forces and various bands of indigenous tribes.

FAST FACTS

STATEHOOD:
1859

FIRST FEDERAL CENSUS:
1850

BIRTH AND DEATH RECORDS BEGIN:
1903 (state)

MARRIAGE RECORDS BEGIN:
1906 (state)

CONTACT FOR VITAL RECORDS:
OR Health Authority,
Center for Health Statistics

> **Between 300,000 and 400,000 settlers heeded the call "Go west, young man," braving the 2,000-mile Oregon Trail to Willamette Valley.**

Indeed, US forces and settlers fought several armed conflicts against indigenous groups before, during and after the Civil War. And, in general, Native populations were greatly diminished by white settlement. Much of the land given to white settlers had been purchased or otherwise acquired from indigenous peoples via treaties. And some historians estimate that up to 80% of the Native American population in the Pacific Northwest died from diseases brought by settlers.

Beginning in the 1850s, the US government forcibly moved most of Oregon's surviving tribes onto regional reservations. Today, there are seven such reservations in Oregon, and nine federally recognized tribes in the state.

The completion of the transcontinental railroad lessened migrants' reliance on the Oregon Trail. But gold mining, fishing and railroad construction attracted new residents, as did abundant agriculture and timber industries. Notable immigration groups included Scandinavians (particularly Swedes and Finns), Germans and the Chinese.

LIVING IN THE BEAVER STATE

Oregon began recording births and deaths statewide in 1903, marriages in 1906, and divorces in 1925. Individual locales kept records earlier (such as Portland, from 1862). Those state records are held by the state vital record office <www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/birthdeathcertificates/pages/index.aspx>. Privacy laws restrict access to birth records less than 100 years old, and to death, marriage and divorce records less than 50 years old.

Records outside those privacy restrictions are held by the Oregon State Archives, which allow for record requests <sos.oregon.gov/archives/Pages/records/aids-vitalrecords.aspx>. You can also order records from the local county vital records office (for birth and death) or county clerk's office (for marriage and divorce).

FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org> and subscription sites Ancestry.com <www.ancestry.com>, Findmypast <www.findmypast.com> and MyHeritage <www.myheritage.com> each hold various vital indexes, as well as some record images.

Note that some Oregonians hopped across the Columbia River to neighboring Washington to avoid Oregon marriage restrictions. Such marriages would be documented by the Washington State Archives <www.digitalarchives.wa.gov>. Both Oregon and Washington are included in the Western States Marriage index <abish.byui.edu/specialcollections/westernstates/search.cfm>, which references roughly 28,000 marriages in the two states.

COUNTING OREGONIANS

Oregon first appeared in the federal census as Oregon Territory in 1850, and also took its own censuses at various times in the territorial period from 1842 to 1859. Some of the latter cover only certain counties. Some territorial census indexes are available through Ancestry.com <www.ancestry.com/search/collections/3569>, and federal censuses (every 10 years from 1790 to 1950; most of 1890 has been lost) are widely available on sites like Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, Findmypast and MyHeritage.

Oregon didn't take its own censuses after statehood, but some individual counties did. (Some surviving enumerations are in the state archives' Historical Records Index

SEAN MARTIN/UNSPLASH

TIMELINE

1778
British explorer James Cook travels the Oregon coast

1805
Lewis and Clark's expedition reaches modern Oregon

1818
A treaty establishes joint US-UK sovereignty of Oregon Country

1843
Hundreds of migrants travel along the Oregon Trail via wagon; more than 300,000 make the trip through the 1860s

1846
Great Britain formally cedes Oregon Country south of the 49th parallel

Mount Hood

1848
Oregon Territory is established

1853
Washington Territory splits off from Oregon

1859
Oregon becomes the 33rd state

1869
The transcontinental railroad is completed, making travel to the West cheaper and faster and reducing reliance on the Oregon Trail

1917
Deschutes County is created in the last major change to Oregon's county boundaries

<genealogy.state.or.us>.) You can also find special enumerations like the veterans' schedule of 1890 and Indian population schedules of 1900 and 1910.

OTHER RECORDS

Look for your Oregon ancestors in these other documents.

- **Land Records:** A public-land state, Oregon is composed mostly of land that the US government distributed directly to individuals, first through the Donation Land Claims Act (early 1850s), then through the Homestead Act (1862). The Bureau of Land Management's General Land Office Records website <glorecords.blm.gov/default.aspx> has searchable land patents. Early, provisional land records (1845 to 1849) are held by the state archives. Subsequent transactions were documented in deeds at county offices.
- **Military Records:** The state's first militia was organized in the 1840s to defend settlements and missions during wars with indigenous groups. Though never formally inducted into the U.S. Army, these servicemen were eventually awarded veterans benefits. You can find pension record indexes at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon <www.gfo.org/resources/indexes/military/indian-war-pensions.html>. The Oregon State Archives has a guide to the military records in its care <sos.oregon.gov/archives/records/agency/Pages/military.aspx>, and you can research the roughly 2,000 Civil War servicemen from Oregon in the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System <www.nps.gov/civil-war/search-soldiers.htm>.
- **Newspapers:** The University of Oregon Libraries hosts Historic Oregon Newspapers <oregonnews.uoregon.edu>, a fully searchable database of more than 2 million newspaper pages dating back to 1846. (You can also search by title or browse by location.) Find additional publications at the Library of Congress' free Chronicling America <chroniclingamerica.loc.gov> or subscription sites like Newspapers.com <www.newspapers.com> and GenealogyBank <www.genealogybank.com>. The Genealogical Forum of Oregon has a database of obituary indexes from the 20th century <www.gfo.org/resources/indexes/vital-records/oregon-obituaries.html>.
- **Local Records:** The Oregon State Archives has a comprehensive inventory of county-level records from around the state: maps, county and office histories, images and more <sos.oregon.gov/archives/records/county/Pages/default.aspx>.

A lifelong Oregonian, **Janice Handsaker** has been doing genealogy for 25 years. She has done extensive research in the Pacific Northwest, across the United States, and in Sweden, England and Germany. In addition to general family history, her research has also focused on Oregon Trail pioneers and Native Americans.

TOOLKIT

Websites

Columbia River Basin Ethnic History Archives <content.libraries.wsu.edu/digital/collection/cchm/custom/crbasin>

Cyndi's List: Oregon <www.cyndislist.com/us/or>

FamilySearch Research Wiki: Oregon <www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Oregon,_United_States_Genealogy>

Historic Oregon Newspapers <oregonnews.uoregon.edu>

Linkpendium: Oregon <www.linkpendium.com/or-genealogy>

Oregon American History and Genealogy Project <www.oregongenealogy.com/ahgp>

Oregon Digital <www.oregondigital.org>

ORGenWeb Project <orgenweb.atwebpages.com>

Southern Oregon Digital Archives <soda.sou.edu>

Publications

Oregon Guide to Genealogical Sources by Connie Lenzen (Genealogical Forum of Oregon)

Archives & Organizations

Archives West <archiveswest.orbiscascade.org>

Bend Genealogical Society and Library <www.bendgenealogy.org>

Genealogical Forum of Oregon <www.gfo.org>

The National Archives at Seattle <www.archives.gov/seattle>

Oregon Genealogical Society <www.oregongs.org>

Oregon Historical Society <www.ohs.org>

Oregon State Archives <sos.oregon.gov/archives>

Oregon State University Valley Library <library.oregonstate.edu>

Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers <www.oregon-sdop.org>

Southern Oregon Historical Society <www.sohs.org>

State Library of Oregon <www.oregon.gov/library/Pages/default.aspx>

Find Your U.S. Ancestors

RESEARCH GUIDE
CALIFO
RESEARCH GUIDE
PENNSYLVANIA
FAST FACTS

Each state-by-state guide includes:

- **How-to tutorials for finding records**
  Notes on how and when key documents were kept in the state, including vital records, state censuses and land records
- **Historical summaries and timelines**
  Narrative history with special emphasis on events that affected your ancestors, including year of statehood, large migrations, and major border changes
- **Links to key resources**
  Websites, books, and archives and organizations for further research

1 VIEW ONLINE FOR FREE
<www.familytreemagazine.com/explore-by-state>
New states added each month.

2 PURCHASE & DOWNLOAD PDFS
<store.familytreemagazine.com/genealogy-research-state-guides>
Purchase ($3 per guide; $49.95 for full collection) includes access to the most recent guides as they're updated.

3 READ AS PART OF *FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE*
Each issue contains two newly updated guides on a rolling basis. Subscribers collect all 52 guides.

RESEARCH GUIDE PUBLICATION HISTORY

State/territory	Most recent issue
Alabama	Jan/Feb 2023
Alaska	Sep/Oct 2022
Arizona	Jul/Aug 2021
Arkansas	May/Jun 2022
California	Mar/Apr 2021
Colorado	May/Jun 2019
Connecticut	Nov/Dec 2021
Delaware	Jan/Feb 2018
Florida	Jan/Feb 2022
Georgia	Sep/Oct 2020
Hawaii	Jul/Aug 2017
Idaho	May/Jun 2021
Illinois	May/Jun 2020
Indiana	Sep/Oct 2022
Iowa	Jul/Aug 2022
Kansas	Sep/Oct 2021
Kentucky	Jan/Feb 2021
Louisiana	Nov/Dec 2020
Maine	Jul/Aug 2022
Maryland	Jul/Aug 2020
Massachusetts	Jul/Aug 2019
Michigan	May/Jun 2022
Minnesota	Oct/Nov 2019
Mississippi	Sep/Oct 2021
Missouri	Jan/Feb 2022
Montana	Sep 2019
Nebraska	Sep/Oct 2020
Nevada	Nov/Dec 2022
New Hampshire	Jan/Feb 2020
New Jersey	Oct/Nov 2019
New Mexico	Jul/Aug 2018
New York	Dec 2019
North Carolina	May/Jun 2021
North Dakota	Dec 2019
Ohio	Mar/Apr 2021
Oklahoma	Jul/Aug 2020
Oregon	Jan/Feb 2023
Pennsylvania	Jul/Aug 2021
Puerto Rico	Jan/Feb 2021
Rhode Island	Mar/Apr 2022
South Carolina	Mar/Apr 2019
South Dakota	Nov/Dec 2021
Tennessee	Sep 2019
Texas	Mar/Apr 2022
Utah	Jan/Feb 2018
Vermont	May/Jun 2019
Virginia	Nov/Dec 2022
Washington	Nov/Dec 2020
Washington DC	Mar/Apr 2020
West Virginia	May/Jun 2020
Wisconsin	Mar/Apr 2020
Wyoming	Jan/Feb 2020

UP NEXT*

Utah, West Virginia	Mar/Apr 2023
New Mexico, South Carolina	May/Jun 2023
Colorado, Vermont	Jul/Aug 2023

**Schedule subject to change*

Black Roots ONLINE

Tap into these 12 premier websites for finding African American ancestors.

by SHAMELE JORDON

Black genealogy is hot, with the number of digitized materials about African American families increasing exponentially. In fact, we have more access to records documenting enslaved people than ever before—even manifests naming the Africans who disembarked in America. The stories of African American lives, from the transatlantic trade to the Great Migration, are being revealed through online collaborations of educators, scholars and family historians.

What follows are the best websites for researching African American ancestors, selected for their broad coverage. Together, they contain the record collections, data sets, visualizations, written histories and photographs that can help answer crucial questions in your research: Who were the enslavers? How did my ancestors learn about freedom? And which voyage brought them to the Americas?

FAMILYSEARCH

<www.familysearch.org>

This megasite of the Family History Library is completely free. Among the site's billions of records are those of the Freedmen's Bureau, the largest collection that documents African Americans during Reconstruction <www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2721171>.

The Freedmen's Bureau (in operation from 1865 to 1872 in the District of Columbia, the former Confederate states, and the border states of

A photo of the Stevens family standing outside their home in Linn Creek, Mo., c. 1903

SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE, GIFT OF JACKIE BRYANT SMITH

Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland and Missouri) was created to help those caught up in the aftermath of the Civil War. Critically, the bureau was to assist the formerly enslaved as they transitioned to their new lives, especially in securing employment, education, and marriage documents.

As such, Freedmen's Bureau records document the lives of the newly freed in the years after the Civil War, and may provide clues to their past enslavement. In addition to employment, education and marriage records, this collection contains rations applications, court trial records, bounty claims, monthly reports and so much more.

Unfortunately, FamilySearch's Freedmen's Bureau records are not fully indexed. Search the partial index through the Discover Freedmen project <www.familysearch.org/en/info/freedmens-bureau-records>, or browse using tips from the FamilySearch Research Wiki <www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/African_American_Online_Genealogy_Records>.

Another pivotal collection that may provide key clues to family relationships is that of the Freedman's Bank records <www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1417695>. Separate from the Freedmen's Bureau, the Freedman's Bank was opened to financially assist freedmen and Civil War veterans. The bank had locations throughout the Southern states, as well as in big cities like Philadelphia and New York City. Bank records consist of registers of depositors (1865–1874), who were veterans as well as non-veteran men and women. Finding family in these records may provide additional family names, and connections to an enslaved past.

Last (but not least), FamilySearch has extensive county record collections. Many aren't indexed—and thus, not keyword-searchable—but are crucial for finding free persons of color and evidence of enslavement. Documents include deeds, probate records (wills, estate papers, inventories, appraisements), tax records, and court records. Dedicated registers of free persons of color can be especially helpful. Note that some collections can only be viewed at a Family History Center or FamilySearch Affiliate Library.

Start your search for county records at the FamilySearch Catalog <www.familysearch.org/search/catalog>, where you can view collections for your target county, parish or town. Thanks to FamilySearch, my cousin Floyd and I were able to piece together documents connected to our enslaved past in Leon County, Fla.

ANCESTRY.COM ($)

<www.ancestry.com>

The number-one subscription site for US genealogists has a nice African American collection <www.ancestry.com/c/african-american>, bolstered in 2021 by the addition of 3 million records from the Freedmen's Bureau. As at FamilySearch, Ancestry.com's Freedmen's Bureau records are free but not totally keyword-searchable; you'll need to browse records to get the most out of this complex collection.

Ancestry.com also has registers of depositors from the Freedman's Bank <www.ancestry.com/

An unidentified family standing outside former slave quarters at a plantation in Savannah, Ga., c. 1907

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

search/collections/8755>, but supplements them with payment records, various loan and deposit ledgers, and other financial documents (all of them free).

Other key collections at Ancestry.com include service records of the United States Colored Troops <www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1107>, a collection of all-Black regiments of the U.S. Army that served in the Civil War. The collection has some 1.6 million records on 178,000 servicemen, including enlistment data and physical description of soldiers. Some service records include manumission documents, which freed servicemen and allowed them to fight.

Ancestry.com also has free slave schedules from the 1850 and 1860 US censuses, plus dozens of collections that document Black life: free people of color registers, emancipations, insurance policies, newspaper ads and more. Find all the site's free-to-search collections at <www.ancestry.com/search/categories/freeindexacom>.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

<www.loc.gov>

Here you will find an aspect of research that's the most gratifying but also the most overlooked: context.

The site's "Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writer's Project" <www.loc.gov/collections/slave-narratives-from-the-federal-writers-project-1936-to-1938/about-this-collection> documents more than 2,300 first-person accounts of slavery. Included are 500 black-and-white photographs of the formerly enslaved, plus a 17-volume collection of transcripts that tell the story of enslavement, the Civil War, and freedom.

The stories of African American lives, from the transatlantic trade to the Great Migration, are being revealed through online collaborations.

To get the most from this collection, go beyond surname searches. My searches for ancestral surnames yielded little known connections, but those for counties of interest provided key context on the environment my ancestors lived. For example, I searched for *Barbour County, alabama* and found a picture of a multigenerational family in front of a slave cabin. Now, I have insight into how the enslaved lived in my ancestors' county. Another result was an interview with a woman born in the county, providing insight into what Black life was like in that community.

A search for *Houston County, Georgia* provided multiple antebellum accounts of Abraham Lincoln's visit. The highlight for me was learning how freedom was announced to the enslaved population there (including my teenaged ancestor, her siblings, and her mother). According to Frank A. Patterson, "They had a notification for a big speaking and that was in Perry, Georgia … There was too many people there. You couldn't stir them with a hot fire."

You can listen to the actual voices of the formerly enslaved at "Voices Remembering Slavery" <www.loc.gov/collections/voices-remembering-slavery/about-this-collection>, which features 22 interviewees speaking about their lives from enslavement to the time of the interview. The recordings come from a variety of sources spanning the 1930s to 1970s, including the Works Progress Administration. (Fun fact: Famous author Zora Neal Hurston worked on projects like this one for the WPA.)

Newspapers can also take us to Black communities, depicting the social lives of our ancestors. Search more than 200 digitized Black newspapers using the Library of Congress' Chronicling America database <chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>. In addition to searching digitized newspapers from 1777 to 1963, you can also view a directory of all known US newspapers published between 1690 and today.

This powerhouse site not only provides links to digitized collections, but also to outside collections. Such is the case of the Christian Recorder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, published in Philadelphia from 1852 to 1960. Though the paper isn't available digitally on Chronicling America, one US Newspaper Directory entry for it links to the Center of Research Libraries <dds.crl.edu/crldelivery/19238>, where you can access free digital scans of the paper from 1852 to 1856.

Find more strategies and resources for African American research at <www.familytreemagazine.com/african-american-heritage>.

A Civil War soldier sits with his wife and two daughters, c. 1864

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Key Records for Black Genealogy Research

In the March/April 2013 issue of *Family Tree Magazine*, Sunny Jane Morton rounded up the seven most important sources for information about African American ancestors:

1 **Family memory:** This includes oral histories, stories, names, and physical items (funeral programs, obituaries, letters, etc.) in relatives' homes.

2 **Censuses:** Black families were first listed by name in 1870, but enslaved ancestors were only identified by age and gender in slave schedules in 1850 and 1860.

3 **Vital records:** Many states began vital record-keeping in the late 1800s or early 1900s. Earlier births, marriages and deaths may be found in county or church records.

4 **Newspapers:** Publications serving Black communities published details about births, deaths, marriages, military service and more—as well as perspectives that would not have been represented in the mainstream press.

5 **Freedmen's Bureau records:** This diverse record set documented newly freed African Americans immediately after the Civil War. See a full guide at <www.familytreemagazine.com/records/other/freedmens-bureau-records>.

6 **Freedman's Saving and Trust bank records:** Like the Freedmen's Bureau, the Freedman's Bank was in operation in the late 1860s and early 1870s and served newly freed Black families.

7 **Published history books and biographies:** Find titles that cover not just local history, but Black history in general. Biographies (even of those who aren't your ancestors) can give insight into life in different eras and places.

Read the full article at <www.familytreemagazine.com/heritage/african-american/african-american-genealogy-research-guide>.

An undated postcard from the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History's collection

SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE, GIFT OF PRINCETTA R. NEWMAN

CYNDI'S LIST

<www.cyndislist.com/african-american>

What began 25 years ago as a single web page of 1,025 links for genealogists has grown to scores of pages with 300,000 links. You can browse links by locality, record type, and various other topics; the African American category alone contains more than 1,000 links.

SMITHSONIAN ONLINE VIRTUAL ARCHIVES (SOVA) FREEDMEN'S BUREAU COLLECTION

<sova.si.edu/record/NMAAHC.FB>

Yes, another website that has Freedmen's Bureau records. But this project from the Smithsonian Institution has benefits that the other databases we've discussed lack: easy browsing, and a full (in-progress) transcription project.

To make best use of the site, you'll want to know where your family lived in the years immediately following emancipation (roughly 1863 to 1870). From the home page, scroll down to Field Offices, then select a state. Click the Contents tab (at left) to reveal additional navigation options, and select your targets.

You can also download finding aids that have link to images, as well as PDFs of records for offline viewing.

RACE & SLAVERY PETITIONS PROJECT

<library.uncg.edu/slavery/petitions>

Legislative and court records are other under-researched documents that are full of promise for your family history. These document matters of ownership, freedom, education, free people of color, women's rights, and crimes.

This site, affiliated with the University of North Carolina at Greensboro's Digital Library of American Slavery <dlas.uncg.edu>, includes materials from state legislatures and county courts in Southern states and the District of Columbia. You can search by state, year and keyword.

After exhausting the search for the names of enslaved and enslaver (under Search by Name), use Search for Petitions by state and add the county name to the keyword box. Review the petitions for your county, as this may reveal people from your family cluster. A petition may contain genealogical information about free people of color, guardians, enslavers, or the enslaved.

The collection is also available on microfilm (as *Race, Slavery, and Free Blacks: Petitions to Southern Legislatures and County Courts 1775–1867*) held by certain libraries and databases like ProQuest. You request individual petitions from the state archives, or the original legislature or county court.

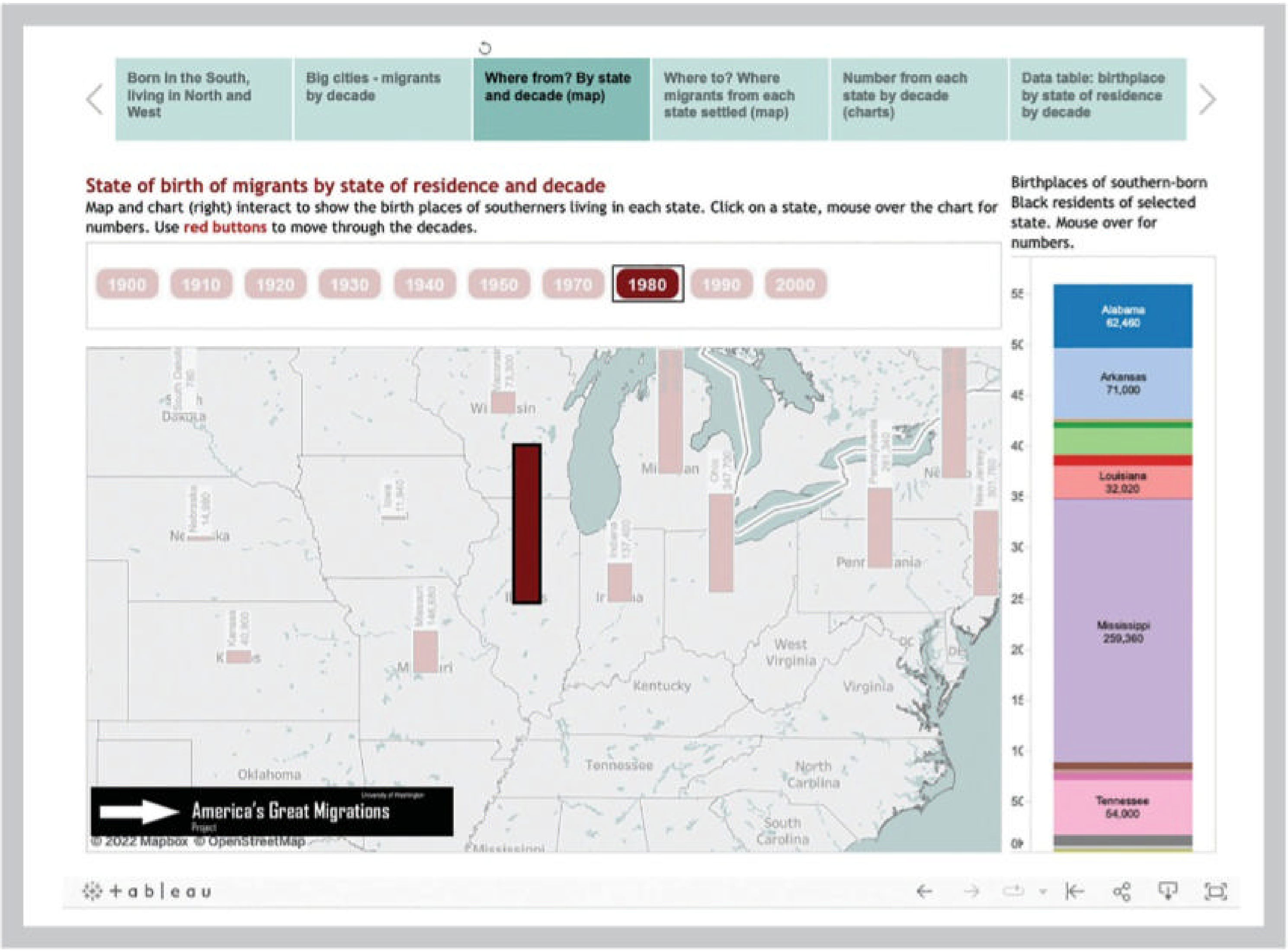
MAPPING THE GREAT MIGRATIONS

<depts.washington.edu/moving1/map_black_migration.shtml>

Knowing major migration patterns helps us understand why our ancestors moved, as well as possible locations to search when people "disappear." The interactive Great Migrations project from the University of Washington's Civil Rights and Labor History Consortium encompasses historic migrations affecting six ethnic groups, places or time periods: Black, Latinx, Asian American, Southern diaspora, Dust Bowl, and migrations by state.

Black Migrations include several visualizations that indicate how Black populations moved throughout the 20th century. Click a green block, then narrow by year. One map is of Southern-born African Americans living in the North and West. Another ("Where From?") allows you to select a state to see a breakdown of Southern birthplaces for Black residents of the selected state (see below).

For more on researching ancestors who were part of a mass migration, the Great Migration



Born in the South, living in North and West
Big cities - migrants by decade
Where from? By state and decade (map)
Where to? Where migrants from each state settled (map)
Number from each state by decade (charts)
Data table: birthplace by state of residence by decade

State of birth of migrants by state of residence and decade

Map and chart (right) interact to show the birth places of southerners living in each state. Click on a state, mouse over the chart for numbers. Use red buttons to move through the decades.

1900
1910
1920
1930
1940
1950
1970
1980
1990
2000
Oklahoma
Kentucky
West Virginia
Virginia
Tennessee
North Carolina
South Carolina
America's Great Migrations Project
© 2022 Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Birthplaces of southern-born Black residents of selected state. Mouse over for numbers.

Alabama 62,460
Arkansas 71,000
Louisiana 32,020
Mississippi 259,360
Tennessee 64,000
+ a b | e a u

Above: A Black family arriving in Chicago from the South as part of the Great Migration, 1922

Left: A map from the America's Great Migrations Project showing the states of birth for migrants living in each state in 1980

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

A family on the stoop of a home in Brooklyn, 1936

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

(1910–1930), see <www.familytreemagazine.com/heritage/african-american/african-american-great-migration>.

MAPPING THE FREEDMEN'S BUREAU

<mappingthefreedmensbureau.com/maps/map>

This major research tool, created by Toni Carrier and Angela Walton-Raji, has an interactive map showing the field offices of the Freedmen's Bureau. Use the map to determine the closest field offices to your ancestor's location.

Click the red building icon for a field office, and you'll see a microfilm publication number. You might also have access to a finding aid for that publication, which you can use to learn about the office and its records.

SLAVEVOYAGES

<www.slavevoyages.org>

This site has answers to the questions you may have about the enslaved brought to the United States. Through interactive visualizations, SlaveVoyages presents data related to the people, voyages, vessels and places of the transatlantic slave trade.

Here are some of the site's primary databases, one of which includes just statistics and two that have specific people's names:

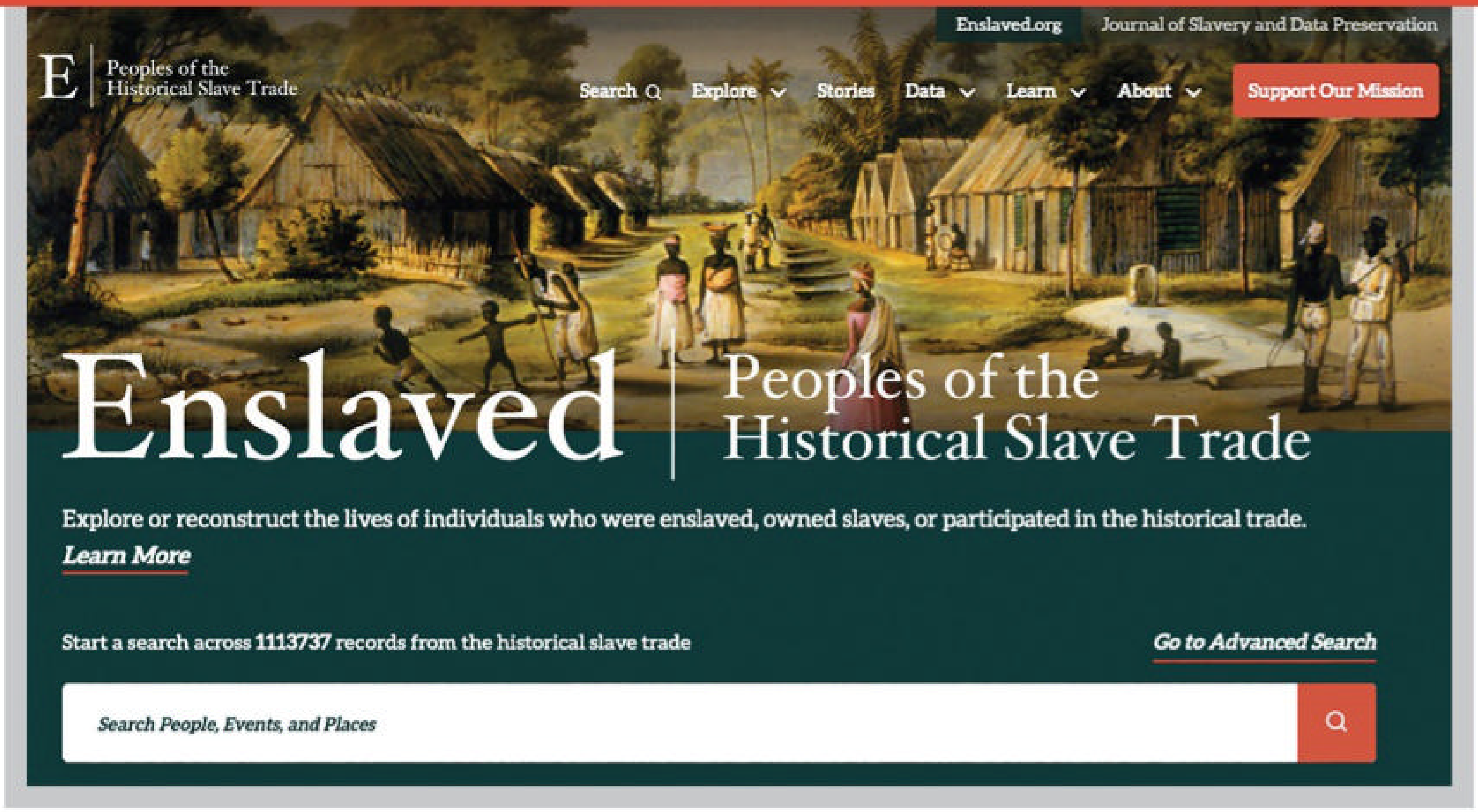
- **Trans-Atlantic > Database:** The listings here cover 36,000 sourced voyages, with vessel name, place the voyage began, and place where the purchase took place. View information as a table, timeline or map.
- **People of the Atlantic Slave Trade > African Origins:** These are 90,000 names of Africans removed from slave ships and trading sites in Africa in the last 60 years of the slave trade. Entries include gender and embark/disembark details.
- **People of the Atlantic Slave Trade > Oceans of Kinfolk:** The 60,000 names here refer to people captured throughout the United States and transported to New Orleans. (The 1807 law that prohibited the slave trade also required captains to file manifests that listed people by name.) All told, the database logs 3,000 voyages in 4,000 manifests, and data includes name, physical description, name of enslaver, name of shipper, and general statistics about the ship.

ENSLAVED

<www.enslaved.org>

This site (a partnership between Michigan State University, the University of Maryland, the Mellon Foundation and various scholars) brings together multiple useful datasets, including those at SlaveVoyages and the Louisiana Slave Database. Genealogists can search or browse more than 600,000 names of the enslaved, enslavers, and other people connected to the slave trade. The site has interactive databases that allow you to visualize information, and continues to grow via open-source data from organizations and individuals.

Use keywords to find related listings or sources under Search, or go to Explore to browse people, events, places or sources. The most prevalent sources on the site are bills of sale, freedom suits, and newspapers. Other sources include civil petitions, narratives, runaway ads and more.


Enslaved.org
Journal of Slavery and Data Preservation
E Peoples of the Historical Slave Trade
Search
Explore
Stories
Data
Learn
About
Support Our Mission
Enslaved | Peoples of the Historical Slave Trade

Explore or reconstruct the lives of individuals who were enslaved, owned slaves, or participated in the historical trade.

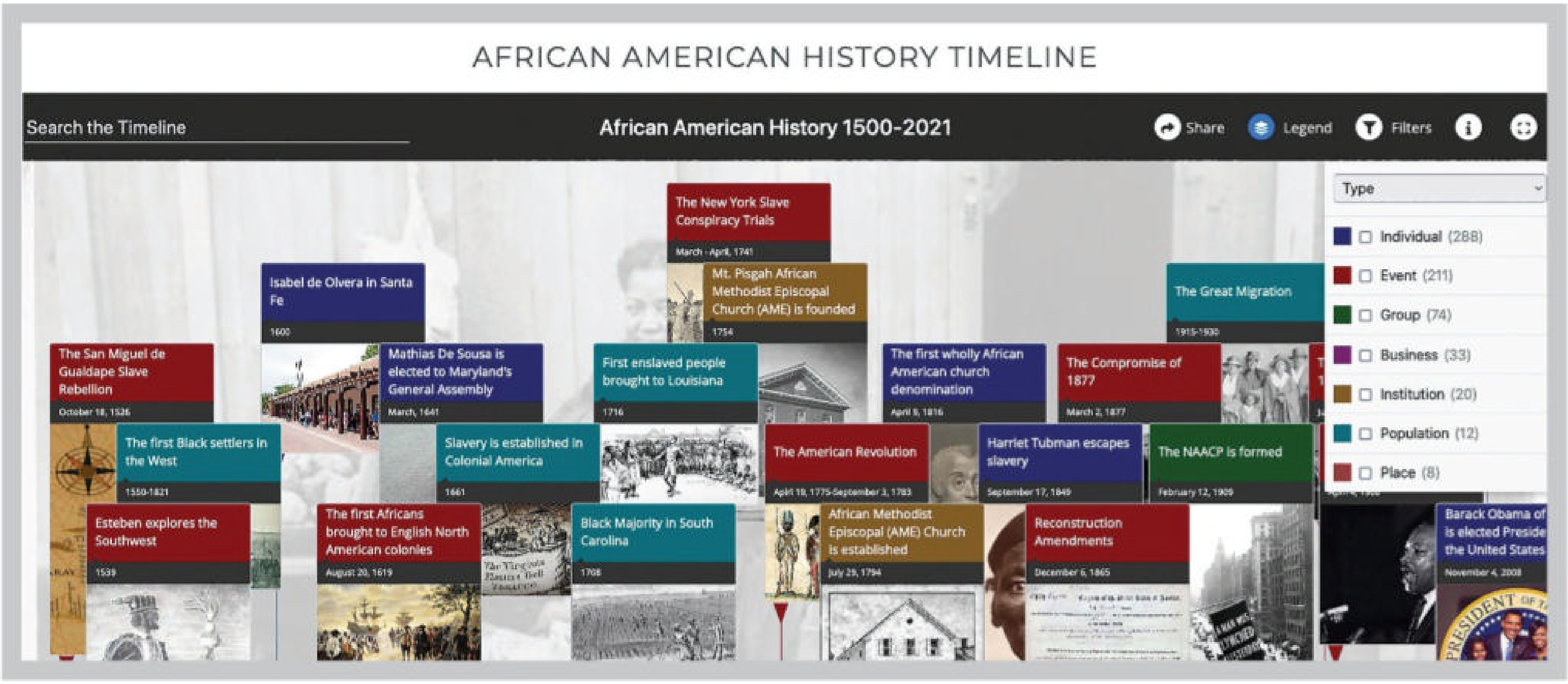
Learn More

Start a search across 1113737 records from the historical slave trade

Go to Advanced Search

Search People, Events, and Places

Enslaved.org home page


AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY TIMELINE
Search the Timeline
African American History 1500-2021
Share
Legend
Filters
Type
☐ Individual (288)
☐ Event (211)
☐ Group (74)
☐ Business (33)
☐ Institution (20)
☐ Population (12)
☐ Place (8)
The New York Slave Conspiracy Trials
March - April, 1741
Isabel de Olvera in Santa Fe
1600
Mt. Pisgah African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) is founded
1754
The Great Migration
1915-1930
The San Miguel de Gualdape Slave Rebellion
October 18, 1526
Mathias De Sousa is elected to Maryland's General Assembly
March, 1641
First enslaved people brought to Louisiana
1716
The first wholly African American church denomination
April 9, 1816
The Compromise of 1877
March 2, 1877
The first Black settlers in the West
1550-1821
Slavery is established in Colonial America
1661
The American Revolution
April 19, 1775-September 3, 1783
Harriet Tubman escapes slavery
September 17, 1849
The NAACP is formed
February 12, 1909
Esteben explores the Southwest
1539
The first Africans brought to English North American colonies
August 20, 1619
Black Majority in South Carolina
1708
African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church is established
July 29, 1794
Reconstruction Amendments
December 6, 1865
Barack Obama of is elected Preside the United States
November 4, 2008

The African American History virtual timeline at BlackPast

IN MOTION: THE AFRICAN AMERICAN MIGRATION EXPERIENCES

<www.inmotionaame.org/migrations/index.cfm.html>

This website hosts the most succinct writeup on Black migration, with deep references and a companion book published by National Geographic. Find information on 13 migration periods from 1450 to the present, with timelines containing key events in Black history and of the African diaspora.

Unfortunately, some of the site's elements no longer work because they were built using the now-defunct Adobe Flash. For example, the various source links don't function properly. You can work around this by clicking the "Printer-Friendly Version" button, which will allow you to see full references.

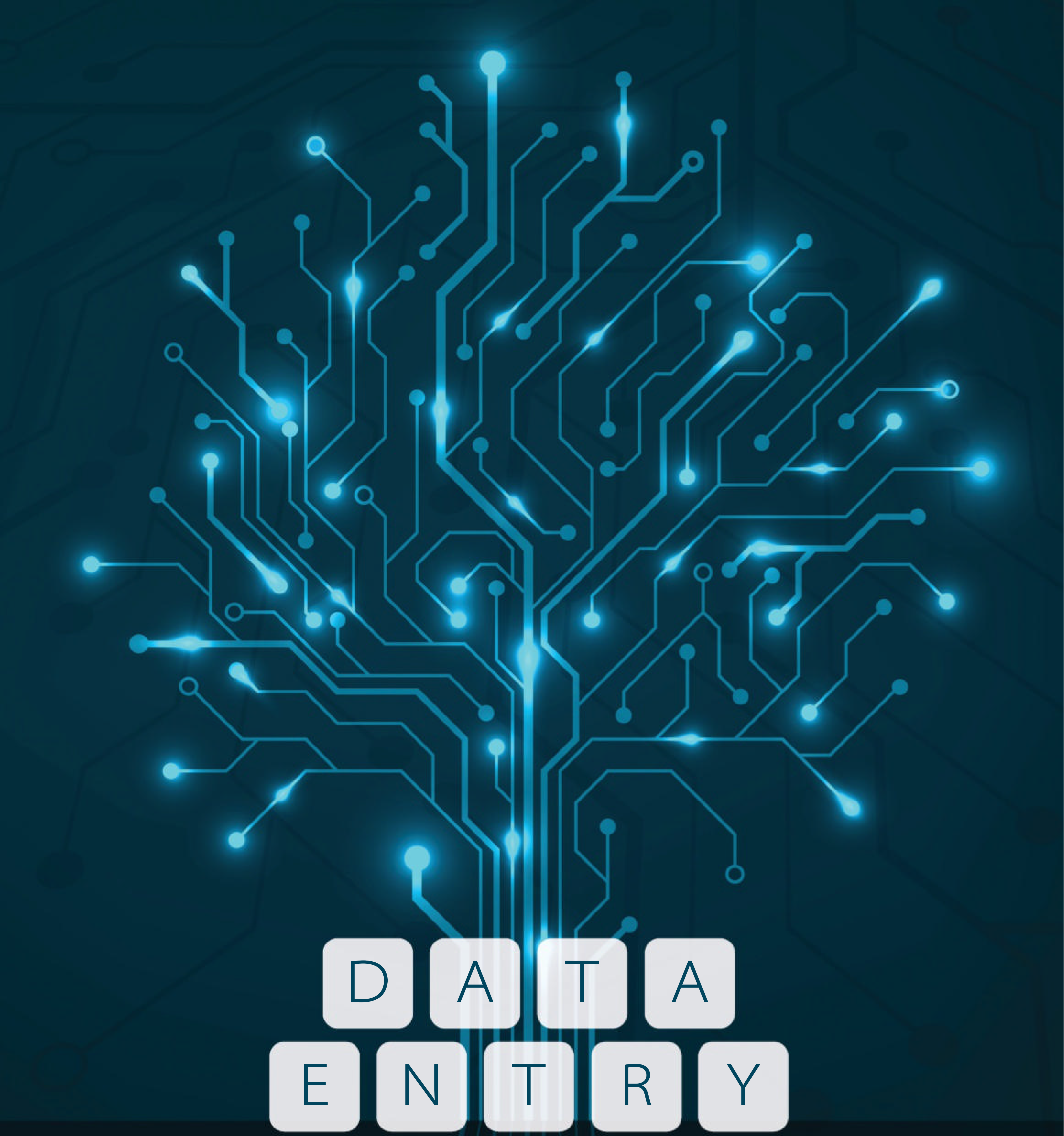
BLACKPAST

<www.blackpast.org>

Do you need to brush up on your Black history? The names of people, churches, schools and organizations are almost guaranteed to appear. One of the best online references for African American history, BlackPast has an enhanced interactive timeline that includes 700 entries dating from 1526 to the present.

Search the site by keyword, or browse its 8,000-plus posts. From the timeline, you can filter events by event type, era, state, or gender or occupation of those involved. You can also view and download the timeline as a chart. ●

Shamele Jordon is a professional genealogist, producer, writer and lecturer. She teaches the "Researching African American Ancestors" course for Family Tree University.



DATA ENTRY

Genealogy software programs are robust tools for building your family tree. Here's how to best add key facts to them: names, dates and places.

by RICK CRUME

At a basic level, it's easy to enter names, dates and places in genealogy software. But how should you record name changes, approximate dates, and places that no longer exist? Genealogy software can handle just about any variations—if you know where they should go and how to enter them.

Here are some power-user tips for entering data into your genealogy software, regardless of what program you're using. Throughout, we'll use the most-popular programs (Ancestral Quest <www.ancquest.com>, Family Tree Builder <www.myheritage.com/family-tree-builder>, Family Tree Maker <www.mackiev.com/ftm>, Legacy Family Tree <www.legacyfamilytree.com> and RootsMagic <www.rootsmagic.com>) as examples.

ENTERING NAMES

Most genealogy software has a field for Given (first) Names and another one for Surname (last name). But it's not always as simple as entering *John* in the former and *Smith* in the latter. You might also want to record titles, nicknames, alternate spellings and name changes, plus surnames made up of multiple words.

Keep these points in mind when entering people's names in your genealogy software.

Maiden names

Standard practice is to enter a woman's maiden name as her surname. Note that, in some programs, you'll need to run online records searches for a woman's maiden name as well as her married name; some don't automatically search for both.

Multiword surnames

Sometimes a surname is made up of more than one word, such as "von der Leyen" or "di Giovanni." Names from Hispanic cultures may combine the surnames of both parents, like "Vargas Llosa."

Enter all of a surname's words—whether just one or many—in the Surname field. In Family Tree Maker, click the Edit Name Parts button to make sure words are populating the search fields correctly.

Titles

A prefix, such as *Capt.*, *Dr.* or *Rev.*, might precede a name and a suffix, such as *M.D.*, *Sr.* or *III* ("the third"), might follow it. All the popular genealogy programs have fields for Prefix or Title/Prefix, and Suffix or Title/Suffix.

Nicknames

Ancestral Quest, Family Tree Builder and RootsMagic each have a field for Nickname. Family Tree Maker recommends entering a nickname in the Also Known As field, and Legacy Family Tree suggests that you enter a nickname as an Alternative Name.

Name variations

A person's name might be spelled multiple ways in different records (or even in the same record!). My ancestor John Robertson's name usually appears in census records as "John Robinson" or "John Robison." And I've found many variations of my relative John Hudson Pennington's name, including: "Col. J. H. Pennington," "J. Hudson Pennington" and even "Colonel Jeremiah H. Pennington." Your ancestor might have even changed his name altogether. My immigrant ancestor Johann Carl Schantz became "Charles Jones."

All the major programs have a way to indicate name variations. You can enter variants as an "AKA" in Ancestral Quest, an "Alias" in Family Tree Builder, an "Also Known As" in Family Tree Maker and an "Alternate Name" in Legacy Family Tree and RootsMagic. When entering an Alternate Name fact in RootsMagic, you can specify the name type (such as AKA, nickname, maiden name, or alternate spelling).

You might also create a separate fact (AKA, Also Known As, Alternative Name or Nickname) for each nickname and name variation. When you enter a name variation, add a note indicating where you found that version of the name.

East Asian names

Most popular genealogy software programs follow the European naming convention that places given names first and the surname last. But in some places, such as China, Japan and

ISTOCK

Korea, the surname typically comes first. These names would display correctly if you entered surnames in the Given Names field and given names in the Surname field. But that's not a good long-term solution, and it's not recommended.

Unlike most genealogy programs, Ancestral Quest can display Asian names properly, both onscreen and in reports. To change the setting for everyone in your file, click on Tools > Preferences and, under the Database tab, select the option to set a default language template for the file. Change the template to Chinese, and surnames will appear first. To change the name order for just selected individuals in your Ancestral Quest file, go to each person's Edit Individual screen and select a different language template.

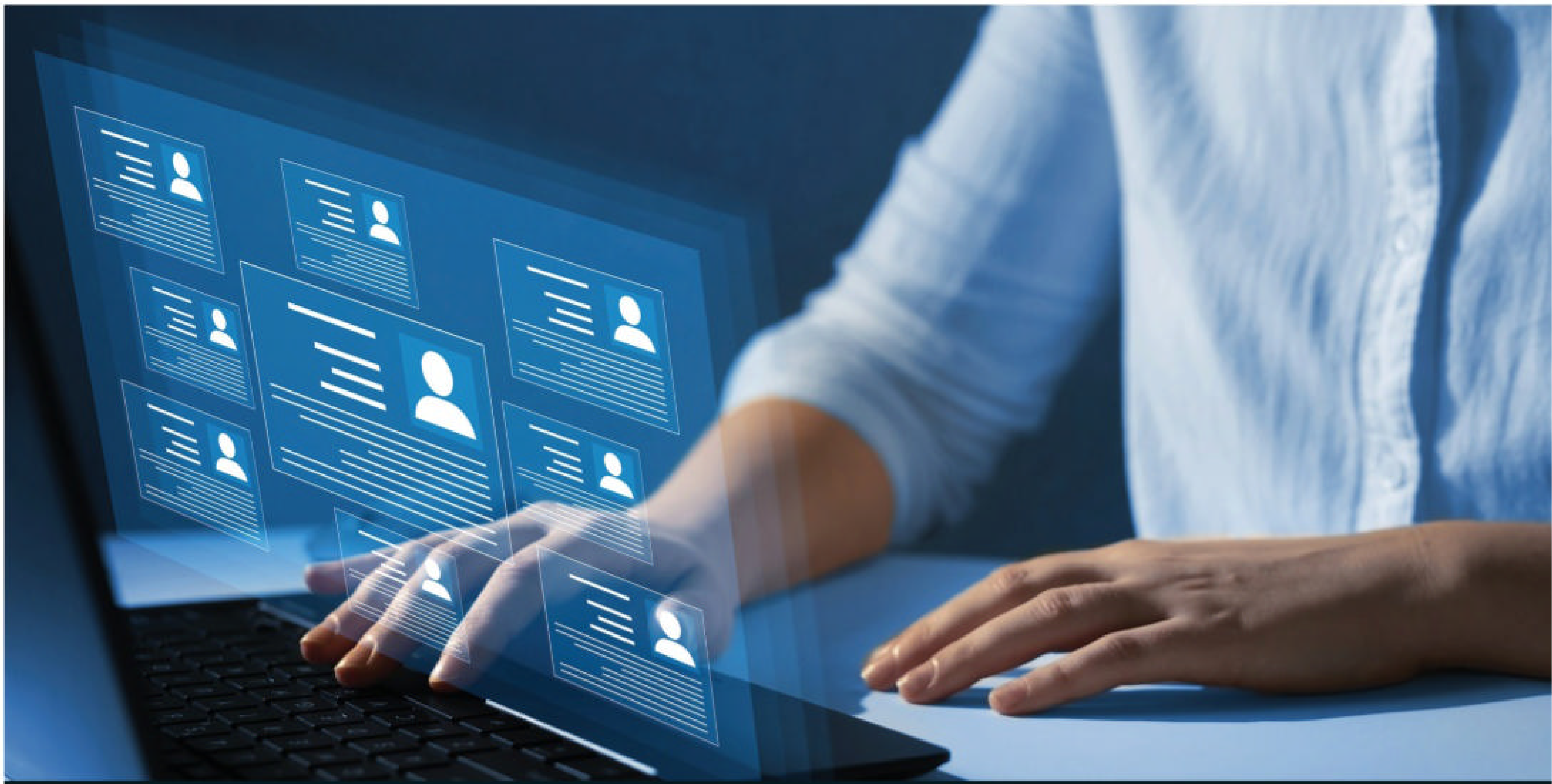
Users of other programs should enter East Asian given names and surnames in the appropriate fields, even though they won't display in the correct order.

Genealogy Software: Compared

Here are the most popular family tree-building software programs. All except Legacy Family Tree are available for both Windows and Mac, and all except Family Tree Maker offer free versions. (Legacy Family Tree will run, with some limitations, on a Mac that uses an emulator or other Windows operating system.)

For more detail (and a comparison with online family trees), see <www.familytreemagazine.com/resources/software/online-tree-vs-genealogy-software>.

Name	Price	Notes
Ancestral Quest 16 <www.ancquest.com>	$34.95	A good choice for long-time users of the defunct Personal Ancestral File (PAF) who want to stick with a similar user interface. Free "Basics" version available
Family Tree Builder <www.myheritage.com/family-tree-builder>	free	Automatically searches for matches on MyHeritage and FamilySearch, and can sync with MyHeritage family trees
Family Tree Maker 2019 <www.mackiev.com/ftm>	$79.95	Offers hints from Ancestry.com and FamilySearch and can sync with Ancestry.com family trees with a single click. Notable for its wide variety of charts and reports.
Legacy Family Tree 9.0 <www.legacyfamilytree.com>	$34.95	Offers record searching from FamilySearch, Find a Grave, Findmypast, GenealogyBank, MyHeritage. Free "Standard" edition available
RootsMagic 8 <www.rootsmagic.com>	$39.95	Easy editing and simple navigation. Offer hints from Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, Findmypast and MyHeritage. Share tree data back and forth with Ancestry.com and FamilySearch. Free "Essentials" version available



GALEANU MIHAI/ISTOCK

Genealogy software can handle just about any variations—if you know where they should go and how to enter them.

ENTERING DATES

Most genealogy software displays dates as *DD Month YYYY* (e.g., *7 Nov 1960*) onscreen and in reports, since that format is compact and avoids confusion. Other constructions, such as the US standard of *MM/DD/YYYY*, could be misinterpreted (e.g., *11/7/1960* as *11 Jul 1960* instead of *7 Nov 1960*). If you prefer a different format, you can change your software's date setting.

If you don't have an exact date, you could enter a partial date, such as a year or month and year. You could also precede an uncertain date with a qualifier like *abt* (about), *bef* (before) or *aft* (after). Or, to indicate an event took place between two dates, you could enter it as *between 1 Jan 1900 and 5 Jan 1900*. You could do something similar for an event that took place over multiple dates: *from 1 Jan 1900 to 5 Jan 1900*.

ENTERING PLACES

Generally, you should organize a place name from the smallest to the largest jurisdiction, including every level. A complete US place name typically includes a town/township/city, plus the county, state and country: *Victoria, Knox, Illinois, United States*.

Counties and townships

The word *County* is usually omitted, but I like to include it if the county name is unclear or unknown. For example: *Becker, Minnesota, United States* could be interpreted as Becker County or the town of Becker (which is in a different county, Sherburne County). To avoid confusion, you could enter *Becker County, Minnesota, United States* for the county and *Becker, Sherburne, Minnesota, United States* for the town.

If the place is in a rural township, I include the word *Township*. That way, *Glyndon Township, Clay, Minnesota, United States* is distinct from *Glyndon, Clay, Minnesota, United States*, which refers to the separate town of Glyndon.

Cemeteries and churches

You can also record a specific place, such as a church or a cemetery. That can go in the Place Details field in RootsMagic. In Ancestral Quest 16 and Family Tree Maker 2019, you can enter a specific place like a church or a cemetery before the town in the place name. In Legacy Family

Tree, put it in the notes for the fact. (In the Individual's Information window, select the fact and click the Edit button). In Family Tree Builder, you can enter a specific place either before the town in the place name or in the Description field for the fact under the Facts tab.

Defunct place names

Many county, state and national boundaries have changed over time. You can enter the place name either as it was at the time of the event, or as it is known today. Just be consistent, and stick to one standard or the other.

If you enter a historical place name in the Place field, you could note the modern name in the Place Details or the Place Description field. For example, my grandfather was born in South Dakota before it reached statehood. I can enter *Enterprise Township, Moody County, Dakota Territory, United States* as his place of birth, but note in the Place Details or Description that it's now *Enterprise Township, Moody County, South Dakota, United States*. Likewise, I could enter the modern name in the Place field and note the place name at the time of his birth in the Place Details or Description.

When you enter a location, Family Tree Maker checks it against a database of more than 3 million modern, standardized place names (*not* historical ones). If the place is unrecognized, the box to the right turns into a question mark. Click on it to resolve the place name.

RootsMagic's CountyCheck feature alerts you if you enter a county that didn't exist at the date of the event. CountyCheck is on by default in Settings > Program Settings, and it covers counties in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia.

HANDLING FOREIGN LANGUAGES

If there's a Jürgen, a Françoise, or another name with a diacritical mark in your family tree, you might want to take advantage of these tools for entering foreign-language characters like *ü* and ç.

Ancestral Quest: In the Edit Individual window, click on Tools > Character Map. Select one or more characters to copy and click the Copy button. Then go to a name or place and paste the character (Ctrl-V).

For more cross-platform advice on family tree-building programs, read <www.familytreemagazine.com/resources/software/top-10-genealogy-software-tricks>.

Family Tree Builder: To open the Windows Character Map, press the Windows key + R to open the Run command box, type *charmap* and press Enter. On a Mac, you can use macOS shortcuts.

Family Tree Maker: When you enter a person's name, click on the pencil icon to the right to open the Edit Name box. Then click where you want to enter the special character, and hit the Insert Symbol button.

Legacy Family Tree: In the Individual's Information window, place your cursor where you want to insert the special character, then press the F6 key. Double-click on one or more characters and hit Return Characters. You can also select up to eight special characters that you use most often and make them immediately accessible in the Special Characters ribbon to the left of the Events/Facts on every input window. Click on the blue box at the top of the ribbon. In the window that opens, double-click on up to eight characters and hit Return Characters. To insert a character, just click where you want to insert it and then on the special character in the ribbon.

RootsMagic: Right-click on any edit or note field and select Character Map. Choose a character set from the Subset drop-down, select a letter and click Insert. On a Mac, hold down the letter you wish to accent, such as "e." Wait a second and the Accent Menu will appear. Then click on the character you want to enter. The RootsMagic Wiki <wiki.rootsmagic.com/wiki/RootsMagic_8:Entering_International_Characters> also has advice for using Microsoft Word, Windows and macOS shortcuts to enter accented characters in RootsMagic.

Names, dates and places are core components of an accurate family history, so it's worthwhile to record them carefully. ●

Contributing Editor **Rick Crume** specializes in online research, genealogy software, DNA testing and British genealogy.

TIMA MIROSHNICHENKO/PEXELS

CONSIDER WHERE YOU'RE GETTING YOUR INFORMATION. A key component of research is source analysis, wherein you evaluate how credible the information you find is likely to be. Citing your sources is a great way of keeping you honest in your research—see the Source Citations Cheat Sheet and Genealogy Source List (page 72) included in this issue for more. Website card catalogs (such as Ancestry's; see page 62) can also help, with collection pages that point back to archival sources. ●

Draft Records

US military draft records are potentially untapped sources of information on male ancestors and sometimes their female family members. Even men who didn't serve in the military may have had to register under one of the conscription acts for the Civil War, World War I, or World War II.

Online resources make it easy for today's savvy researcher to find and use draft records as a springboard for family history discoveries. We'll give you an overview of registration records created between 1862 and 1945, identify where to find them, and explain how to expand on the information they provide.

CLUES IN DRAFT RECORDS

Local districts or boards conducted draft registrations to identify men eligible for service in times of war—specifically, the Civil War and World Wars. Many of the registration lists and cards these boards created survive, providing a deep well of data on several generations of American men. Those born as early as 1816 and as late as 1924 could've been eligible to be drafted for one or more of these three wars.

Questions the draft boards asked registrants varied from war to war, and even from one registration to the next. Typically, you'll find information about the registrant's name, residence, age, date and place of birth, race, US citizenship and occupation.

Depending on the registration, you also may discover details about your ancestor's previous or current military service, his marital status, the name and address of a relative or contact person, a physical description, and his signature.

These findings can move your research forward in many ways. Birth information can tell you about births that occurred long before a state began keeping vital records. A woman named as a man's nearest relative might narrow your search for a marriage record. An immigrant's claim to be a US citizen could lead to naturalization papers.

Draft information is also useful in combination with other evidence. Residence and occupation details can distinguish your relative from others with the same name. If you're "missing" a person in census records, a draft registration can indicate where he lived. Descriptions of height, build, hair and eye color can help you visualize your ancestor.

WORLOCK1/ADOBE STOCK

CIVIL WAR DRAFT RECORDS

Prior to the Civil War, the federal and state governments relied on offering free public land to attract volunteer soldiers in wartime. These bounty land incentives were discontinued by 1855.

The Civil War brought an unprecedented need for troops on both the Union and Confederate sides. Governors from Maine to Mississippi issued calls for volunteers beginning in 1861. As the war escalated, the need for men reached crucial heights.

Without the promise of free land to spur recruits (an incentive in previous wars), how could this demand be met?

Although the idea of a national draft faced considerable opposition in the North, it seemed the only viable solution. The Enrollment Act of 1863 required all men age 20 to 45 to register within their congressional district, which often covered several counties.

The first Union registration took place 1 July 1863. Three smaller enrollments followed. For eligibility purposes, men were divided into classes. Those age 20 to 35 years, plus unmarried men age 36 to 45, were designated Class I. Nearly everyone else was Class II.

In addition to name and residence, Northern draft registers typically show:

- age on the registration date
- race
- occupation or trade
- whether married
- state or country of birth

The registrations were assembled into consolidated lists, many of which survive. You can find digital images of existing consolidated lists on subscription site Ancestry.com <www.ancestry.com> (which you can use free at libraries offering Ancestry Library Edition). For more-focused results, search within the site's US Military Records category <www.ancestry.com/search/categories/39>. As a starting point, enter your ancestor's name and where you think he lived in 1863.

The original consolidated lists are in Record Group 110 (Records of the Provost Marshal General) at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) <www.archives.gov> in Washington, DC. The registration books from which they were compiled, which sometimes contain additional information, are held at NARA's regional branches.

If your ancestor registered, does that mean he served in the war? Not necessarily. Those in Class II were rarely made to serve. Each community and state was responsible for filling a quota of men. If they could raise that number with volunteers, no one needed to be drafted, so volunteers were heavily encouraged. Some states, like Massachusetts and Ohio, never had to call up draftees.

Even if they were drafted, men could be exempted from service if they were:

- physically or mentally impaired
- only sons of dependent widows or infirm parents
- widowers or orphans supporting young children
- non-citizens who hadn't declared intent to naturalize
- convicted of a felony
- able to furnish a substitute or pay a $300 fee

The South also instituted a draft. The Confederate Conscription Act of 1862 required all white males age 18 to 35 years to register. This was extended to ages 17 to 50 by early 1864. Ministers, teachers, civil officials, tradesmen, railroad workers and plantation owners were typically exempt. Initially, a man could hire a substitute and pay up to $1,000 to avoid service, but that allowance was scrapped in late 1863 due to bitter opposition. Men already enlisted for one-year terms automatically saw their service extended to three years.

There are no consolidated lists of Confederate registrations. Each Southern state conducted its own drafts. Many times, troops raised by conscript were merged with existing units. Relatively few Confederate conscription registers survive today, and those that do can be difficult to find.

Fast Facts

Coverage: Civil War, World War I, World War II

Jurisdiction where kept: The US federal government; records held by the National Archives and Records Administration and its branches

Key details: Name, address, age, date and/or place of birth, race, citizenship status, marital status, employment information, name of nearest relative, physical characteristics

Alternates and substitutes: Military enlistment rosters, service records, state adjutant general's records, military unit histories, military pension records, newspapers, and county histories

The best place to begin your search for any existing Southern conscription records is in the state adjutant general's records. Some states compiled and published adjutant general records after the war. Georgia, for instance, published six volumes of *The Confederate Records of the State of Georgia*, which are available free on Google Books <books.google.com>.

If your ancestors lived in Tennessee, search the Civil War Sourcebook <www.tnsos.net/TSLA/cwsourcebook>, a digital collection of official records, diaries, letters and newspaper articles. The South Carolina Archives offers information about its Confederate Military Records as well <scdah.sc.gov/research-and-genealogy/resources/military-records>.

Learn more about Civil War records for individual states, North or South, on FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org>.

WORLD WAR I DRAFT RECORDS

The need for a national draft emerged again in 1917 when the United States entered the Great War. In response, Congress created the Selective Service System, consisting of local and state draft boards under the Office of the Provost Marshal.

Three registrations took place in 1917 and 1918. In total, about 24 million men between the ages of 18 and 45, including noncitizens, were required to register. If your relative was born between September 1873 and September 1900, he was probably among them.

A draft board official asked questions of each man and recorded the answers on individual, two-sided cards. The questions varied by registration, but in general noted:

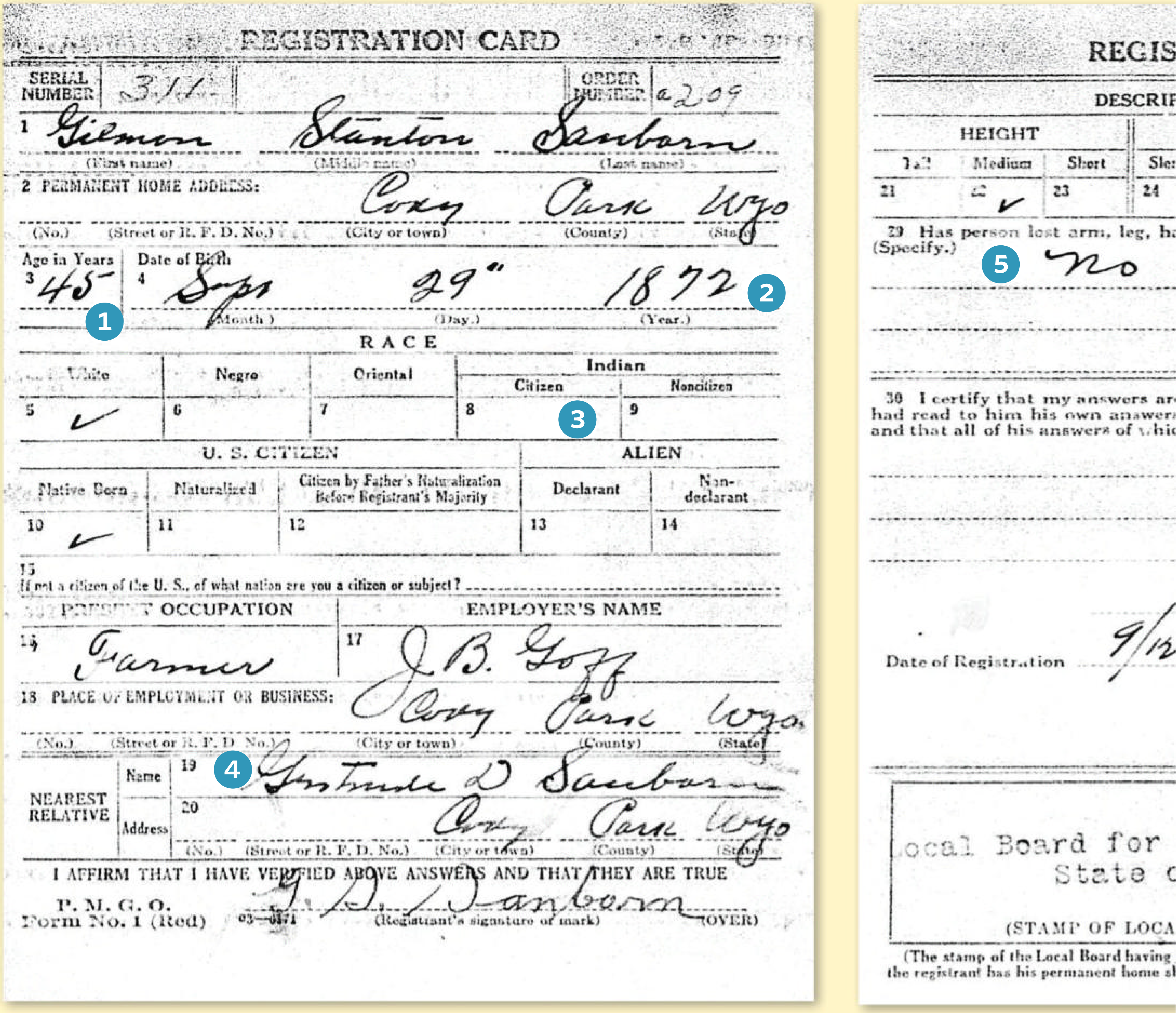
- name and age
- address
- date and place of birth
- citizenship status
- occupation and employer
- race and physical description

Some registrations also asked marital status, the name and address of the man's nearest relative, his father's birthplace, or information about dependants. Unless he was illiterate, the registrant signed his card to verify accuracy.

Draft boards used the cards to determine which men to call up for service. They kept docket books listing the names and actions taken. Only a small percentage of those who registered were actually drafted.

Because they cover nearly 98 percent of the male population between 18 and 45 years old, WWI draft cards represent a tremendous resource for genealogists. Even if your ancestor didn't have to register, he might've had a brother who did. The cards can reveal unknown birth dates and places, the names of wives and/or parents, and clues to marriages and naturalization.

At a Glance: WWI Draft Record



REGISTRATION CARD

SERIAL NUMBER	311	ORDER NUMBER	a209

1 Gilmon Stanton Sanborn
(First name) (Middle name) (Last name)

2 PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS: Cody Park Wyo
(No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town) (County) (State)

Age in Years 3 45
Date of Birth 4 Sept 29" 1872
(Month.) (Day.) (Year.)

RACE

White	Negro	Oriental	Indian Citizen	Indian Noncitizen
5 ✓	6	7	8	9

U. S. CITIZEN Native Born	U. S. CITIZEN Naturalized	U. S. CITIZEN Citizen by Father's Naturalization Before Registrant's Majority	ALIEN Declarant	ALIEN Non-declarant
10 ✓	11	12	13	14

15 If not a citizen of the U. S., of what nation are you a citizen or subject?

PRESENT OCCUPATION 16 Farmer
EMPLOYER'S NAME 17 J.B. Goff

18 PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS: Cody Park Wyo
(No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town) (County) (State)

NEAREST RELATIVE Name 19 Gertrude D Sanborn
Address 20 Cody Park Wyo
(No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town) (County) (State)

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE

P. M. G. O. Form No. 1 (Red) 03—6471 G. S. Sanborn
(Registrant's signature or mark) (OVER)

REGIS

DESCRIP

HEIGHT Tall	HEIGHT Medium	HEIGHT Short	Sle
21	22 ✓	23	24

29 Has person lost arm, leg, ha
(Specify.) No

30 I certify that my answers ar
had read to him his own answer
and that all of his answers of whic

Date of Registration 9/12

Local Board for
State o
(STAMP OF LOCA
(The stamp of the Local Board having
the registrant has his permanent home sh

Citation: "U.S. World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," digital image, Ancestry.com (http://www.ancestry.com : accessed 26 October 2022), card for Gilman Stanton Sanborn, serial no. 311, Cody, Park County, Wyoming.

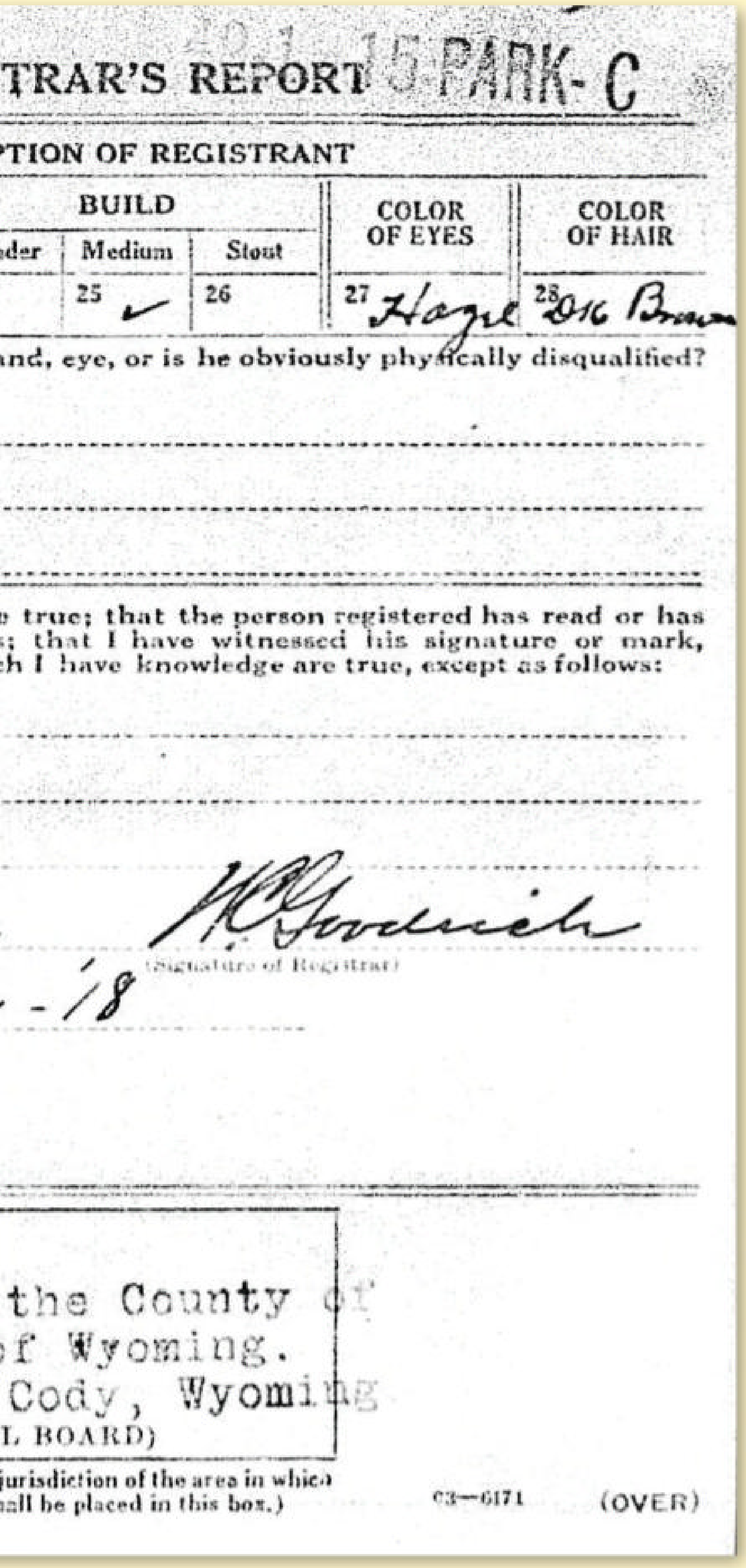
1 At 45 years old, Gilman Stanton Sanborn was at the upper end of the draft range. After amendments, the Selective Service Act required men age 18 to 45 to register.

2 Draft cards can substitute for early birth records. Gilman was born in 1872. Like many states, Wyoming didn't begin keeping birth records until the early 1900s.

3 WWI draft cards indicate whether immigrants were naturalized or if not, whether they had declared intention for citizenship.

4 Who was Gertrude D. Sanborn, Gilman's nearest relative? Draft records often provide evidence of wives, parents or siblings.

5 Each card has two sides. The reverse notes the man's physical description, with a stamp showing where he registered.



TRAR'S REPORT 5 PARK-C

PTION OF REGISTRANT

BUILD			COLOR OF EYES	COLOR OF HAIR
der	Medium	Stout		
	25 ✓	26	27 Hazel	28 Brown

nd, eye, or is he obviously physically disqualified?

e true; that the person registered has read or has
s; that I have witnessed his signature or mark,
ch I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

W C Goodrich
(Signature of Registrar)

-18

the County of
of Wyoming.
Cody, Wyoming
L BOARD)

jurisdiction of the area in which
all be placed in this box.)

03—6171 (OVER)

Digital images of WWI draft registration cards are online at Ancestry.com, Findmypast <www.findmypast.com> and the free FamilySearch. When searching these sites, start by entering your ancestor's name and likely residence at the time of registration. If you get too many results, filter them by adding a probable birth year and/or state. If you get too few, try variant name spellings. (You can use the asterisk wildcard to substitute for zero or more letters.) Each record consists of two images, the front and back of the card—be sure to view both.

The original registration cards are in Record Group 163 at the National Archives branch in Atlanta. Local docket books, classification lists, and miscellaneous papers relating to draft records may be found in state archives or National Archives regional locations.

WORLD WAR II DRAFT RECORDS

When the Great War ended, so did military registration. There was no ongoing US draft in the 1920s and 1930s. Then escalating world conflict led to the first-ever peacetime registration in October 1940.

Following the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941, thousands of men voluntarily enlisted in the service. But with war raging on multiple fronts, the need for soldiers, airmen, and sailors was far greater. Congress passed a new Selective Service Act requiring all males between ages 18 and 45 to register.

WWII registrations of young men were long withheld for privacy reasons, but are now available online. Ancestry.com has a collection of full-color digital images for every US state except for Maine (whose records were destroyed before digitization could begin).

The fourth registration, conducted 27 April 1942, required men born between 28 April 1877 and 16 February, 1897 to register. These men were 45 to 64 years old at the time. Nicknamed the "Old Man's Draft," this registration included many who'd already served—or at least registered—for World War I. Its intent was to gather information about older men's skills and occupations that could be utilized in manufacturing, transportation and other aspects of the war effort.

As during the First World War, registrants in the WWII draft answered several questions on two-sided cards:

- name and age
- date and place of birth
- residence address
- telephone number
- place of employment or business
- employer's name and address
- name and address of a contact person
- race and physical characteristics

The "Old Man's" registration cards for most states have

The online version of this article includes a bonus sample Civil War draft record, a toolkit of websites and publications, and links to *Family Tree* advice on records from each conflict <www.familytreemagazine.com/records/military/draft-records-genealogy-workbook>.

also been microfilmed and digitized. You'll find collections on Ancestry.com, FamilySearch and Fold3 <www.fold3.com>. On any of these sites, start with a general name and place search, being aware of possible spelling variations. Narrow your search with additional fields, such as birthplace and year, if necessary.

Keep in mind that you should find two images for a single registrant. The cards for some states were microfilmed in such a way that the front of one man's card appears with the reverse of the previous man's card, so take particular care to get the right match when working with the records of those states.

These collections aren't necessarily complete, however, as registration cards for some states were destroyed before being microfilmed. No Fourth Registration records survive for Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina or Tennessee. For New York, only those from the boroughs of New York City survive. Other states or parts of a state may be missing from a particular database. If you don't find the results you expect, read the notes that accompany the database to learn about its coverage.

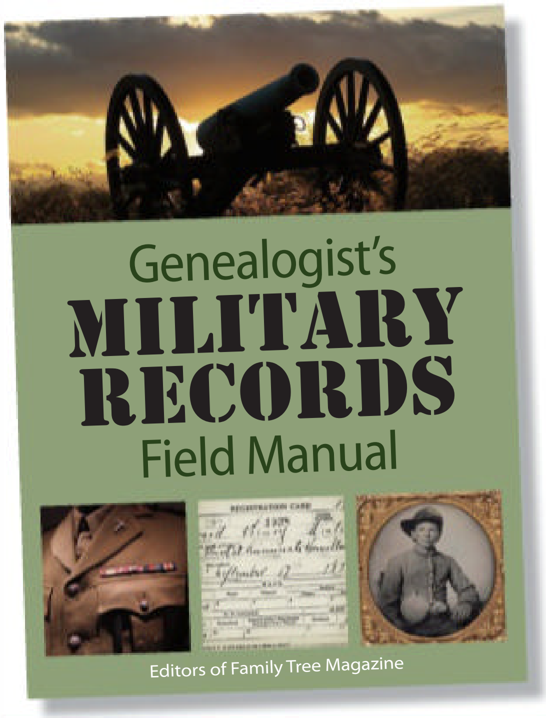
The original cards for all six WWII draft registrations are at NARA's National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis. They're divided into two groups: one for the Old Man's Draft, and one for the other five drafts of younger men.

USING DRAFT RECORDS

Once you've found a draft record, you'll want to get all the information you can from it. What does it tell you about your ancestor? Is this consistent with what you already know about him? There might've been many men with similar names in any given state. Analyzing the information is crucial to making sure you've found the right one.

Compare facts such as birth date and place with information from census records and death records. The name of a specific town or township of birth is an important detail, giving you a place to dig for other family records. If the draft registration database reveals other men with the same surname born in the same place, you'll want to investigate a possible kinship between them. Could they be brothers?

Consider his occupation as well. Draft records generally provide more details about employment than census records. You may find the name and address of the company or land-



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At a Glance: US Drafts for WWI and WWII

Conflict name & years of US involvement	Dates registrations held	Birthdate range of eligible men
World War I (1917–1918)	● 5 June 1917 (ages 21–31) ● 5 June 1918 (age 21) ● 12 September 1918 (ages 18–45)	13 September 1873 to 12 September 1900
World War II (1941–1945)	● 16 October 1940 (ages 21–35) ● 1 July 1941 (age 21) ● 16 February 1942 (ages 20–45) ● 27 April 1942 (ages 45–65) ● 30 June 1942 (ages 18–20) ● 10–31 December 1942 (age 18)	28 April 1877 to 31 December 1924

owner your ancestor worked for. Exploring this further can provide a lot of interesting material for your family history.

Many draft records asked questions about birthplace and US citizenship. If your ancestor wasn't born in America, his draft registration might indicate if he'd started or completed the naturalization process. Based on this, you can search for a passenger list, declaration of intention, and/or final papers. Non-citizens who agreed to fight for the United States often received expedited naturalization after the war.

Both WWI and WWII draft records list the name and address of the nearest relative or "person who will always know your address." Who did your ancestor put down for this? Married men typically named their wives. Unmarried or widowed men might've named a parent, sibling, friend or employer. If you don't recognize the person your ancestor named, try to determine who he or she was. You could discover a relationship you didn't know about.

It's particularly interesting to compare the cards of those who registered as young men for World War I and again in the Old Man's Draft for World War II. These records give you snapshots of your ancestor at two points in time, about 25 years apart. Note the differences in address, employment, nearest relative or contact person and physical traits.

Finding a draft record naturally leads to the question of whether or not an individual actually served in the war he registered for. To determine this, you'll want to learn more about the records created for that particular war.

Enlistment records, service records, discharge papers, state adjutant generals' reports, and published unit histories are among the places you might look. Many of these resources are now available online. For an overview, see the United States Military Records wiki on FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Military_Records>.

You might also find accounts of men who served in a county history book or local newspapers. During the Civil War, newspapers often published notices of enlistments and events. They sometimes published lists of those attending GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) events in later years, or noted an old soldier's service unit in his obituary. Also search for your potential Civil War ancestor in the 1890 veterans' census, soldiers' home records and pension files. Because they usually contain a good deal of documentation, pension records are particularly worth seeking out.

Cemetery records are another way to confirm service, as many veterans' gravestones bear military inscriptions or markers. Gravestone photographs and memorials on Find A Grave <www.findagrave.com> and BillionGraves <www.billiongraves.com> often indicate military service. Some towns and counties have constructed veterans' memorials or published lists of those who served in various conflicts.

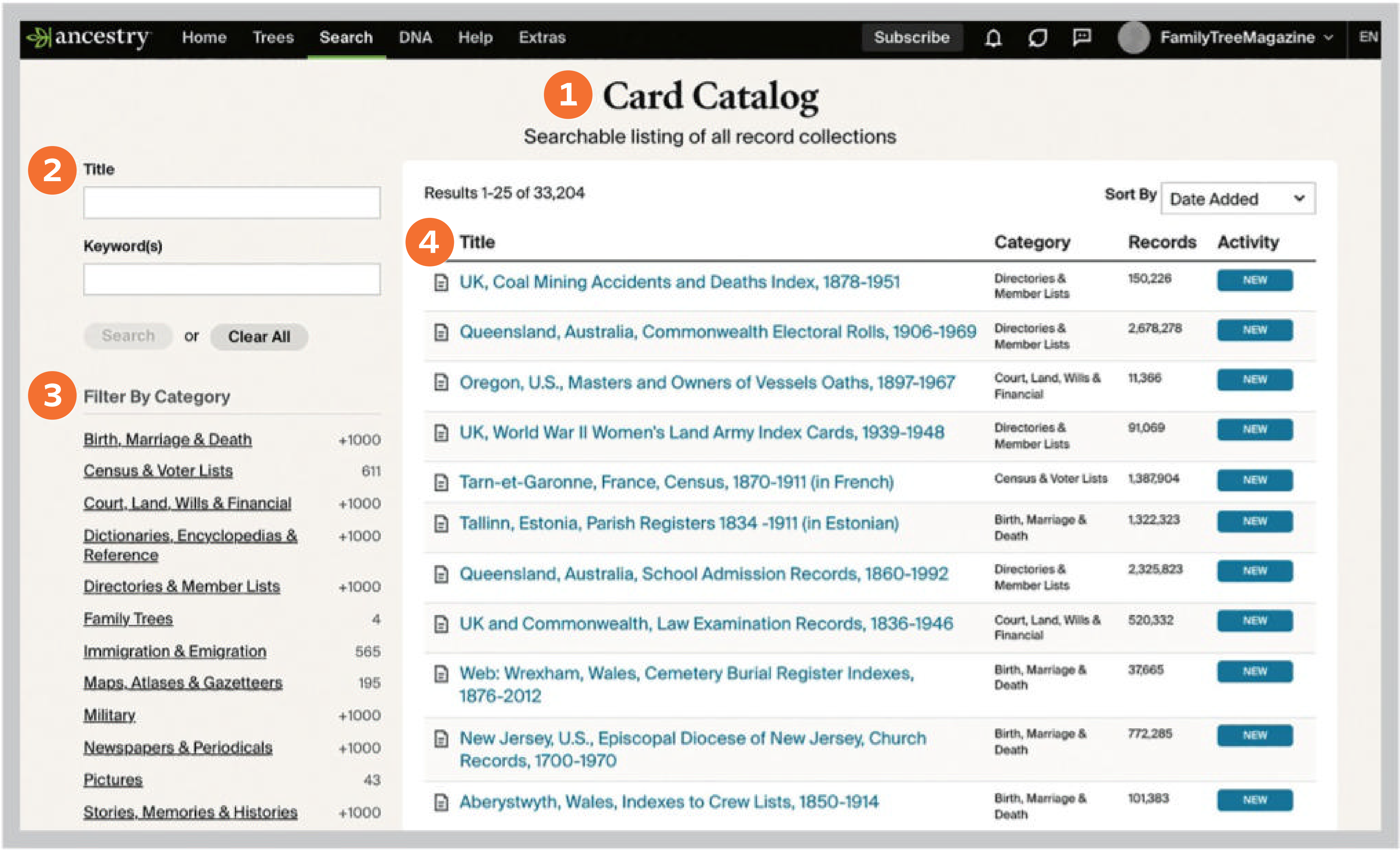
Military draft registrations served a specific government purpose in times of war. Knowing how and why draft records were created can help you use the information to better understand your ancestors. Draft registrations can provide evidence of birth dates and places, marriages, names of parents or other relatives, addresses, employment, physical appearance, and more. Used in conjunction with other evidence, these details allow you to develop a fuller picture of your ancestor's life, and pave the way to future discoveries. ●

Shelley K. Bishop

Finding Collections with the Ancestry.com Card Catalog

Ancestry.com, one of the world's leading genealogy websites, has a card catalog <www.ancestry.com/search/collections/catalog> that can make it much easier to find records—even if you're *not* a subscriber. The Card Catalog helps you determine whether Ancestry.com has a particular kind of record in the first place, then allows you to search just the specific collection likely to include your ancestor. Are you using Ancestry.com's Card Catalog to its full advantage? Take this quick tour to see what you might be missing.

Sunny Jane Morton



Card Catalog

Searchable listing of all record collections

Title

Keyword(s)

Filter By Category

Birth, Marriage & Death	+1000
Census & Voter Lists	611
Court, Land, Wills & Financial	+1000
Dictionaries, Encyclopedias & Reference	+1000
Directories & Member Lists	+1000
Family Trees	4
Immigration & Emigration	565
Maps, Atlases & Gazetteers	195
Military	+1000
Newspapers & Periodicals	+1000
Pictures	43
Stories, Memories & Histories	+1000

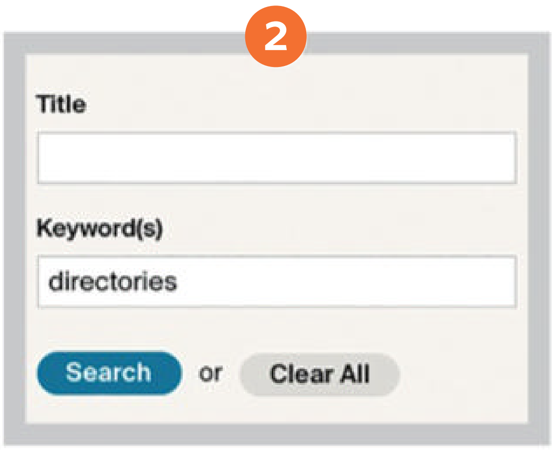
Results 1-25 of 33,204

Sort By: Date Added

Title	Category	Records	Activity
UK, Coal Mining Accidents and Deaths Index, 1878-1951	Directories & Member Lists	150,226	NEW
Queensland, Australia, Commonwealth Electoral Rolls, 1906-1969	Directories & Member Lists	2,678,278	NEW
Oregon, U.S., Masters and Owners of Vessels Oaths, 1897-1967	Court, Land, Wills & Financial	11,366	NEW
UK, World War II Women's Land Army Index Cards, 1939-1948	Directories & Member Lists	91,069	NEW
Tarn-et-Garonne, France, Census, 1870-1911 (in French)	Census & Voter Lists	1,387,904	NEW
Tallinn, Estonia, Parish Registers 1834 -1911 (in Estonian)	Birth, Marriage & Death	1,322,323	NEW
Queensland, Australia, School Admission Records, 1860-1992	Directories & Member Lists	2,325,823	NEW
UK and Commonwealth, Law Examination Records, 1836-1946	Court, Land, Wills & Financial	520,332	NEW
Web: Wrexham, Wales, Cemetery Burial Register Indexes, 1876-2012	Birth, Marriage & Death	37,665	NEW
New Jersey, U.S., Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey, Church Records, 1700-1970	Birth, Marriage & Death	772,285	NEW
Aberystwyth, Wales, Indexes to Crew Lists, 1850-1914	Birth, Marriage & Death	101,383	NEW

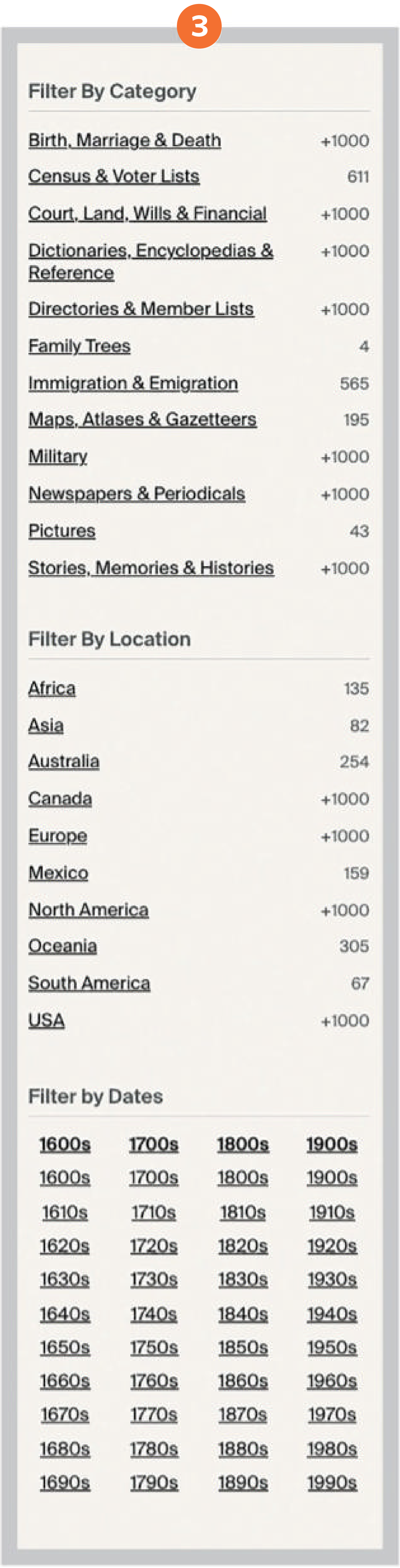
1 From the Card Catalog's home page, you can see a list of Ancestry.com's more than 33,000 record collections, large and small, from around the world. Hover over one to learn more about it. By default, collections are sorted by Date Added, but you can also sort by date updated, title, or record count. Use this list to identify record collections that cover the time and place your ancestor lived in.

2 If you know the name of a collection, you might want to search by title. But I find that searching by keyword is usually more effective, since I don't necessarily know how Ancestry.com is going to title a collection. So if I'm looking for records for the US Civil War, I might just enter *civil war* in the Keywords field and see what I find.



Title

Keyword(s): directories



Filter By Category

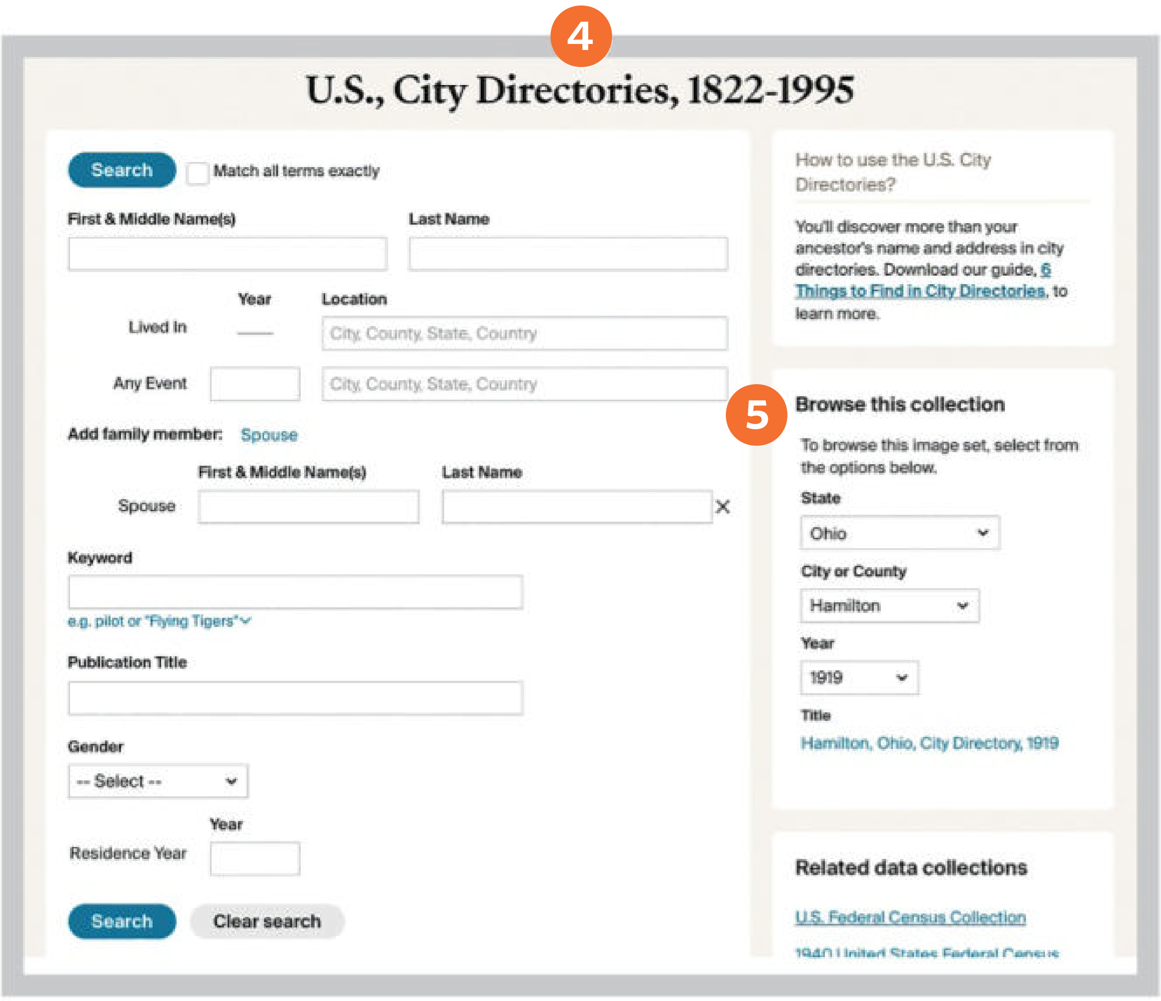
Birth, Marriage & Death	+1000
Census & Voter Lists	611
Court, Land, Wills & Financial	+1000
Dictionaries, Encyclopedias & Reference	+1000
Directories & Member Lists	+1000
Family Trees	4
Immigration & Emigration	565
Maps, Atlases & Gazetteers	195
Military	+1000
Newspapers & Periodicals	+1000
Pictures	43
Stories, Memories & Histories	+1000

Filter By Location

Africa	135
Asia	82
Australia	254
Canada	+1000
Europe	+1000
Mexico	159
North America	+1000
Oceania	305
South America	67
USA	+1000

Filter by Dates

1600s	1700s	1800s	1900s
1600s	1700s	1800s	1900s
1610s	1710s	1810s	1910s
1620s	1720s	1820s	1920s
1630s	1730s	1830s	1930s
1640s	1740s	1840s	1940s
1650s	1750s	1850s	1950s
1660s	1760s	1860s	1960s
1670s	1770s	1870s	1970s
1680s	1780s	1880s	1980s
1690s	1790s	1890s	1990s



U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995

First & Middle Name(s)

Last Name

Year

Location

Lived In — City, County, State, Country

Any Event City, County, State, Country

Add family member: Spouse

First & Middle Name(s)

Last Name

Spouse ×

Keyword

e.g. pilot or "Flying Tigers"

Publication Title

Gender

-- Select --

Year

Residence Year

How to use the U.S. City Directories?

You'll discover more than your ancestor's name and address in city directories. Download our guide, 6 Things to Find in City Directories, to learn more.

Browse this collection

To browse this image set, select from the options below.

State: Ohio

City or County: Hamilton

Year: 1919

Title

Hamilton, Ohio, City Directory, 1919

Related data collections

U.S. Federal Census Collection

1940 United States Federal Census

3 However, the Card Catalog offers more-accurate ways of finding collections than a general keyword search. On the left, you'll find filter options for category (i.e., record type), location, and date. Each filter has additional options underneath—for example, Canada and the various Canadian provinces. Combine filters for even greater effect. Just remember to hit Clear All anytime you want to start a new search.

4 Click a collection title to visit its page. From here, you can run a keyword search of *just that collection*, significantly narrowing the number of search results compared to a search elsewhere on the site. You'll also see notes about how to use this record type, plus source citation information and any notices about coverage. I love to look at these details so I know what to expect when reviewing records, and if certain cities or time periods are missing from the collection.

5 From a collection page, you can also browse a record set. This allows you to "page" through images of scanned documents from a particular place or year. (Options vary by collection.) For example, in "U.S., City Directories, 1822–1995," you're prompted to select a state, then city/county and year. Once you do, you're presented with the title(s) of related directories from that place. If you're signed in and have the appropriate subscription level, you can click a directory link and flip through the full digitized document page by page. ●

tip

The Card Catalog is free to access, so use it to determine if Ancestry.com has enough records relevant to your research to justify a paid subscription.

Saving Heirloom Kitchenware

1 **Acknowledge wear and tear.** Most vintage family kitchenware has seen a lot of use—and abuse. Aluminum baking pans, early plastic storage containers, and wooden spoons need different care than our modern-day cookware and tools.

2 **Gently rinse wooden utensils.** The simple wooden spoon is one of the oldest kitchen tools and one of the most versatile. It can easily cream butter and eggs, mix batter, or stir a hot pot of stew—all without scratching or transferring heat, like metal utensils. That wooden cookware also requires a bit of special care. Avoid cleaning wooden utensils (including spoons, salad bowls, cheese trays and platters) in the dishwasher or by soaking in water. Rinse with warm water, and dry the surface with a towel. Rub a few drops of mineral oil over the wood with a clean cloth to help protect the surface. Remove any sticky dough with a damp towel or nylon scrubbing pad.

tip

Preserve kitchen items, not just recipes! I don't think I could make Mom's perfect turkey gravy without her old flat-bottomed wire whisk. It's an essential "ingredient" in any special family recipe, and travels with me to family dinners.

3 **Handwash aluminum cookware** with liquid dishwashing soap and water, and dry with a clean towel. Avoid using steel wool that can scratch the aluminum surface, or harsh dishwashing detergent (the alkaline ingredients in which can darken or stain aluminum). Try restoring the finish of dishwasher-damaged aluminum by cleaning with a paste of water and cream of tartar. Also note that, though it conducts heat well, aluminum doesn't play well with acidic foods like tomatoes, vinegar and citrus; the acid reacts with the metal, giving food a metallic taste and staining the surface.

4 **Treat cast iron with oil.** Vintage cast iron that's been well cared for will have a smooth surface that resists scorching and rust. "Season" cast iron cookware with a thin coat of oil, which provides a nonstick surface and reduces interaction with food. Make sure you handwash pieces, and use a flat pan scraper and a small amount of soap to remove any stubborn food. Dry thoroughly with a paper towel and rub a light layer of cooking oil on the pan's surface. Lodge Cast Iron <www.lodgecastiron.com> offers some great tips for caring for cast iron, and produces pre-seasoned cookware that requires less care.

5 **Restore vintage Tupperware.** The colorful plastic is not only convenient but also (in some cases) highly collectible. As with most vintage plastics, avoid placing Tupperware in the microwave or dishwasher. Revive sticky or smelly plastic by soaking and scrubbing with a 1:1 mixture of vinegar and water, and you can work out stubborn stains with a baking soda paste. A nylon bristle brush will help clean the container edges. Dry thoroughly with a soft towel, and (to prevent mold) do *not* seal with the lid for storage. ●

Denise May Levenick *cooks up family dishes at her home in Pasadena, Calif., and often shares her vintage kitchenware on her blog <www.thefamilycurators.com>. She is the author of* How to Archive Family Keepsakes *(Family Tree Books).*

FACING PAGE: THOMAS-BETHGE/ISTOCK; POTS: VIKIF/ISTOCK; UTENSILS: PHOTKA/ISTOCK; IRON PAN: SANFEL/ISTOCK; RED POT: MAJACVETOJEVIC/ISTOCK

Q How can I find a birth date for a man born in Lafayette County, Mo., in the early 1890s?

A Many researchers are surprised to learn how recently some places began keeping official birth records. Lafayette County, for example, didn't keep birth records until 1910, despite the county's founding in 1825. (That explains why the county isn't even listed in the dropdown on the excellent Missouri Digital Heritage's database of pre-1910 birth records <s1.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/archivesdb/birthdeath>.)

Fortunately, other 20th-century records offer opportunities to pinpoint birth dates and even parentage. Federal censuses, widely available on subscription sites as well as the free FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org>, can help you find an individual in his parents' household in 1900, along with birth month and year. (Unfortunately, most records of the 1890 census have been lost.)

Draft registration cards for World War I, online at several subscription sites and <www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1968530>, usually include an exact birth date. And someone born in the 1890s may have also registered for the WWII draft (subscription sites and <www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1861144>), which asked for full birth date. Military service would earn a listing, with birth date, in the "Veterans Administration Master Index, 1917–1940" <www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2968245>.

Have a question you'd like David to answer? Email FamilyTree@Yankeepub.com with *Now What* in the subject line, and your question may be selected for a future issue.

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Death records also can be sources for birth information. The Social Security Death Index <www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1202535> usually lists full birth dates along with death dates. Find a Grave <www.findagrave.com> and other cemetery sites record birth info if included on tombstones.

If the individual died between 1910 and 1971, his death certificate might be in Missouri Digital Heritage's database <s1.sos.mo.gov/records/Archives/ArchivesMvc/DeathCertificates>, which provides record images that include not only the deceased's birth date but also his parents' names.

Q I'm researching my husband's ancestor, John Walters, born in Germany about 1852. How do you find someone with such a popular name and just a year of birth?

A To identify your target among similarly named individuals in records, start by seeking something to differentiate him. A middle name (or at least a middle initial) helps. A birthdate would too, obviously, but you don't currently have that.

Absent such clues, look for relatives with more-distinctive names. Maybe John had a son with the colorful name Odysseus Walters, or a daughter dubbed Lodoiska. Search for them instead, in hopes of tracing John in the same or neighboring household. Try the same approach with neighbors, who might have even migrated with him from a previous hometown.

Consider, too, that German-born "John Walters" might not always be listed as such. His first name could show up as *Johann* and his surname might be *Walter* (no *s*), *Walteri* or even *Water*.

Q My grandfather came to the United States in 1886. His naturalization was denied in 1910, according to the National Archives. What would be the consequences for an alien in this situation? Deportation?

A The most likely consequence would simply be that your grandfather would have to reapply for citizenship—if, for example, he failed a citizenship test or eligibility requirements.

Since he'd been a resident alien for 24 years, it's unlikely that denial would lead to deportation. Rather, he'd probably continue in that status unless he'd been found to be wrongly admitted in the first place or to have committed immigration fraud.

Foreign nationals were not required to register as such during peacetime until Congress enacted the Alien Registration Act of 1940. That required foreign-born persons 14 years of age and older to report to a US post office to register and be fingerprinted. ●

David A. Fryxell *is a contributing editor of* Family Tree Magazine *and the author of* The Family Tree Guide to Scandinavian Genealogy *(Family Tree Books) and* MicroHistory *(Continental Divide Publishing).*

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2023 Genealogy Conferences

Note: Unless otherwise noted, these conferences occur every year. Most have at least some virtual programming.

January 23–27: Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG)
Virtual
<slig.ugagenealogy.org>
Experience all-day, live, virtual, in-depth instruction from top educators on a variety of intermediate and advanced topics.

March 2–4: RootsTech
Salt Lake City, Utah
<www.rootstech.org>
After two years of being only virtual, the world's largest annual family history event returns to Salt Lake City. Attend keynotes, classes and celebrations either in-person (limited registration) or virtually online (no registration required). In-person attendees can access additional workshops, live entertainment, and the Expo Hall.

May 3–6: New England Regional Genealogical Consortium (NERGC)
Springfield, Mass.
<www.nergc.org>
An in-person event sponsored by an association of New England genealogical societies. Highlights include the Ancestors Road Show (free consultations), a Society Fair, and more.

May 31–June 3: National Genealogical Society (NGS) Conference
Richmond, Va.
<conference.ngsgenealogy.org>
Top national presenters address a variety of topics that fit the theme, "Virginia: The Deep Roots of a Nation." First-day programming includes the BCG Education Fund Workshop, society topics and local tours. Online participation options are available.

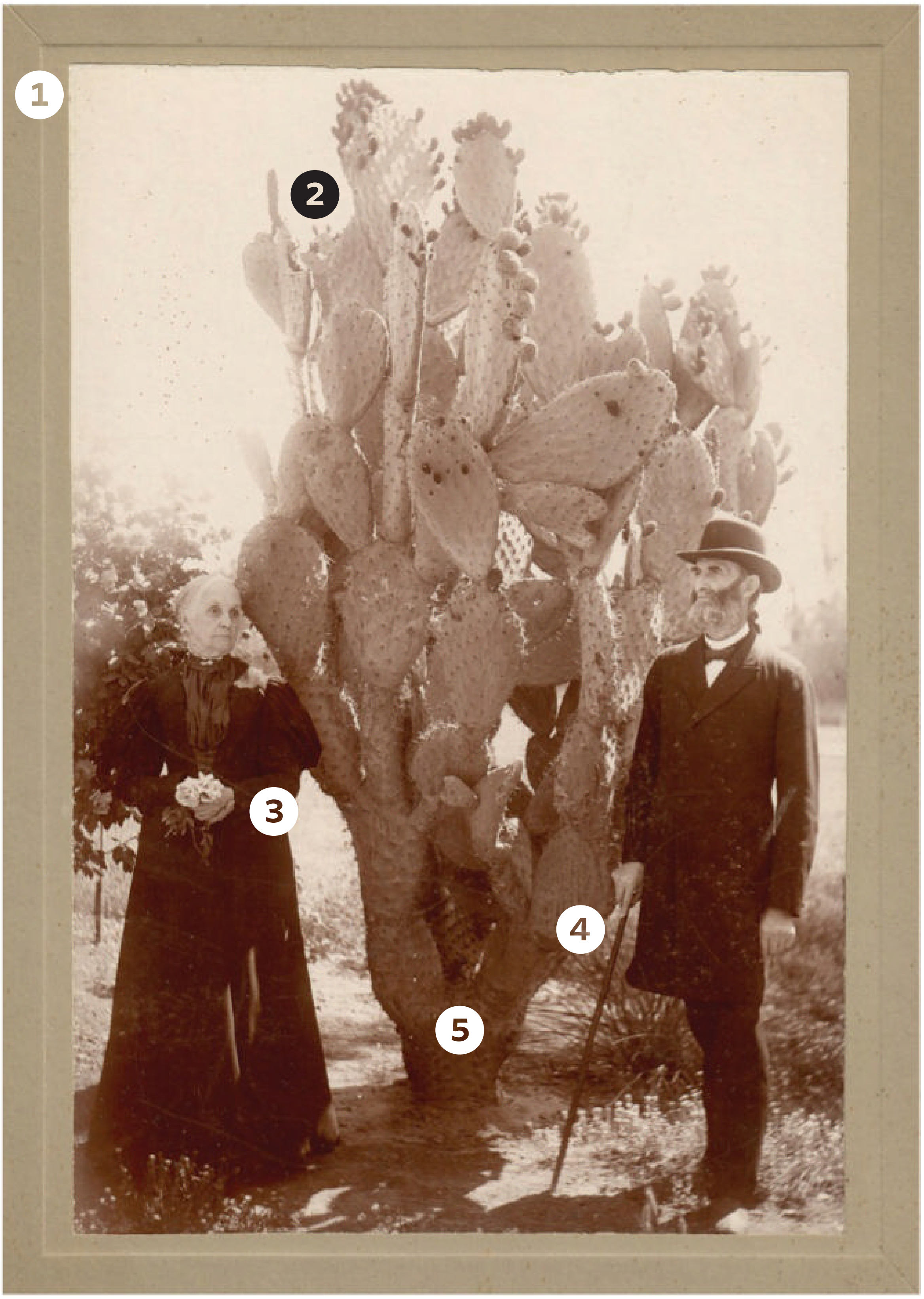
June 9–11: International German Genealogy Partnership (IGGP) Conference
Fort Wayne, Ind.
<www.iggp.org>
This edition of the German-centric biannual event is a physical-virtual hybrid and co-hosted by the Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Center.

June 18–23 and July 9–14: Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP)
Pittsburgh, Pa.
<www.gripitt.org>
This week-long, full-day learning experience offers specific topics for a variety of skill levels from novice to professional. The first session will meet virtually; the second will be in-person at Pittsburgh's La Roche University.

July 11–13: Midwest African American Genealogy Institute (MAAGI)
Fort Wayne, Ind.
<www.maagiinstitute.org>
A unique African American-focused event, offering a total of 48 classes over three days with evening lectures and guided personalized instruction at the Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Center. ●

A Thorny Mystery

A distinctive cactus and puffy dress sleeves give clues to time and place.



1 This image belonged to Pam Woods' maternal grandmother, Mary June Dwight (1915–1997), but lacks identification. It could relate to Mary June's family or her husband's.

2 Prominent in the image is the prickly pear cactus. Common in California where Mary June lived, they can grow up to 20 feet tall and be cultivated. The woman holds roses from a bush next to her, and the setting could be her yard or somewhere she and the man visited.

3 The big upper sleeves and center placket dress worn by the woman were common from the mid- to late 1890s. But older individuals didn't always dress in contemporary fashion, so the photo more likely dates from the mid- to late 1890s to about 1905. (The man's clothing fits that period as well.) They look to be about 65 years old, placing their birth years between 1830 and 1840.

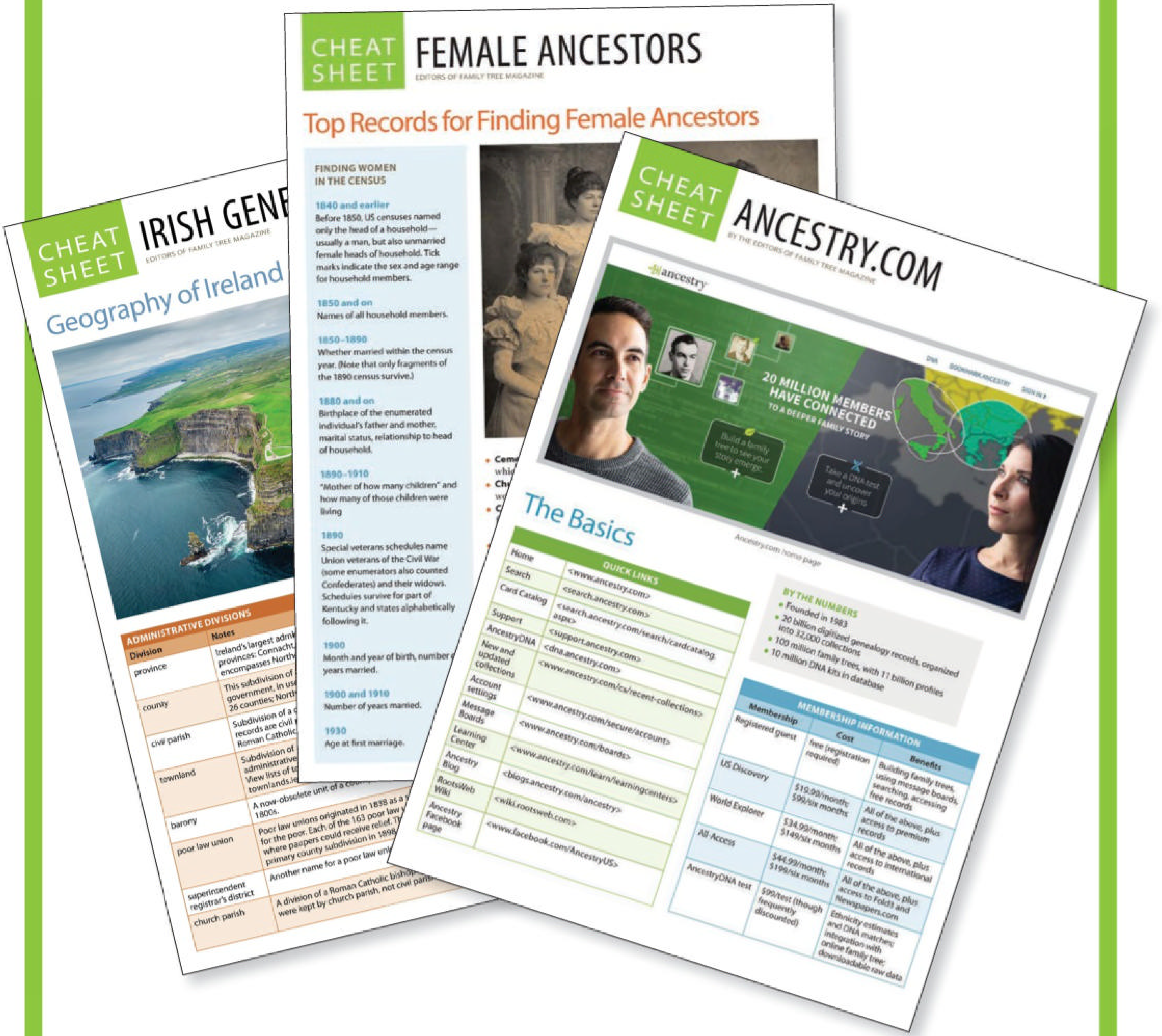
4 The man carries a walking stick, which could be fashionable or functional. Given his age, either (or both) is possible. Anthony Moss's *Visual History of Walking Sticks and Canes* (Rowman & Littlefield) is a useful resource.

5 Ages suggest these two are in the grandparent generation relative to Mary Jane. Mary Jane's husband's grandparents were George Yankee Arnold (1824–1916) and his second wife Minerva Melvina Wilder (1836–1930); they're the right age to be this couple, but lived in Colorado at the time. Mary Jane's grandparents (William Dwight, Margaret Burton, Daniel Webster Prall, and Mary Alice Jacobs) all lived in California at the time of the photo, so this could depict some combination of them or their siblings. Look for similarities with identified photos of them to potentially solve this mystery. ●

Have a photo mystery you'd like Maureen to investigate? Email FamilyTree@Yankeepub.com with your photo, any details you know about it, and *Photo Detective* in the subject line, and your question may be selected for a future issue.

Maureen A. Taylor is the *author of* Family Photo Detective *(Family Tree Books)*.

Genealogy at a glance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Geography of Ireland
CHEAT SHEET
FEMALE ANCESTORS
Top Records for Finding Female Ancestors
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DNA Q&A

Using mtDNA

DMITRY KOVALCHUK/ISTOCK

Q How useful is mtDNA in my family history?

A Asking about the usefulness of mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) in ancestor research is a bit like asking about the usefulness of a 9/16-inch socket wrench. For most projects, you simply won't need it. But it's invaluable for a project that requires turning a 9/16-inch nut.

Like that specific wrench, mtDNA testing can be exactly the tool you need for research questions about a specific genealogical line: your direct maternal line. This is because mtDNA is passed from mother to child. You have almost exactly the same mtDNA as your mother, who has the same mtDNA as her mother, and so on for many generations. (How incredible is that?!)

So will testing mtDNA help you find a missing fifth-great-grandmother on your maternal line? Perhaps, but not without some serious effort on your part.

There are three ways to use mtDNA testing to hunt for an ancestor: haplogroup roulette, fishing, and targeted testing. Family Tree DNA <www.familytreedna.com> is the only major testing company that provides useful information for all three, including an mtDNA match list.

The first, what I call "haplogroup roulette," only works if you need to determine whether a female ancestor was from a very specific population—for example, from a Jewish or Native American community. A haplogroup designation associated with one of those groups could tentatively place an ancestor in one of them.

"Fishing," on the other hand, uses your results as a kind of bait to draw out mtDNA matches from a database. However, even *exact* mtDNA matches don't necessarily have a close relationship. You and an exact mtDNA could be siblings or 20th cousins, and it can be difficult to tell the difference. As such, this method requires a bit of "catch-and-release" as you evaluate matches, most of whom won't be closely related to you.

The third method, target testing, is much more effective. With this strategy, you begin by forming a testable hypothesis. For example, say you're studying your direct maternal fifth-great-grandmother, Abigail. You don't know much about her—she married and left her family's house before the US census listed her as more than a tick mark. But you see the names of eight other children under that same household in a later census, and believe Abigail to be the eldest sibling of those children.

To test that theory, you could find a direct-maternal-line descendant of one of those supposed siblings, then have them take an mtDNA test. If you and that descendant are mtDNA matches, you have a piece of evidence that Abigail and the tester's ancestor were also related.

Of course, there's no *guarantee* that that's the case. You and your mtDNA matches just share a maternal ancestor somewhere up your lines—your results can't specify a generation. But the DNA evidence, coupled with genealogy records, might be enough to list the ancestral couple as Abigail's parents in your family tree. ●

Diahan Southard

GET ORGANIZED

Genealogy Source List

Use this list to fully document sources you've referenced in your research.

SOURCE NO.	CITATION

For more on how to create source citations (and what to include in them), see the cheat sheet included in this issue.

In each issue, **Your Turn** offers a form that'll help you preserve your family's unique stories and organize your research. Tear out and use the form or make a photocopy.

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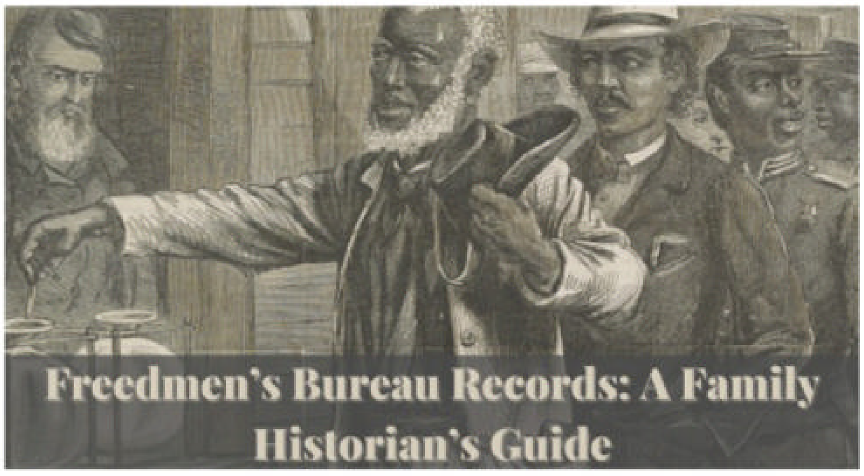
Online Course Calendar

January 2023*

Get Started in Genealogy

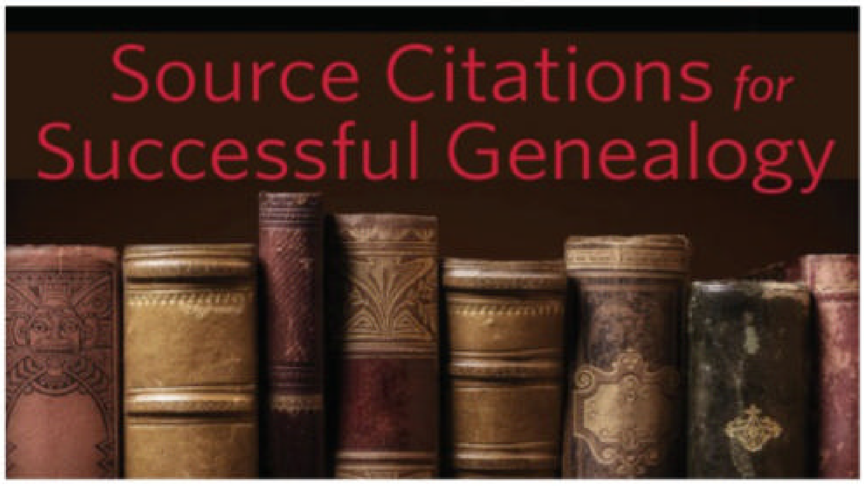
begins January 3rd


Freedmen's Bureau Records: A Family Historian's Guide

begins January 9th

TOP SECRET
Details coming soon
New Event
Organizing Your Genealogy

begins January 13th


Source Citations for Successful Genealogy

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FUNDAMENTALS OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY
DAVID HUFFMAN

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CHEAT SHEET

SOURCE CITATIONS

EDITORS OF FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE

PABLOHART/ISTOCK

Any statement of fact in your family tree—such as a name, birthdate, marriage place, or a parent-child relationship—must have a corresponding source. A source might be a census record, birth or marriage certificate, newspaper obituary, old letter, family Bible, or other type of record. The source citation documents exactly where each fact came from. In the process of creating a citation, you'll evaluate the reliability of that source and analyze what it tells you about your ancestor.

Anatomy of a Source Citation

Kanawha County, West Virginia, Register of Marriages, 1945, p. 373, #2009, John Thomas Morton—Marie Rose O'Hotnicky, marr. 24 Nov 1945; digital images, West Virginia Division of Culture & History, *Vital Research Records Project*

(http://www.wvculture.org/vrr, accessed 8 January 2012). Note: groom's surname indexed as "Morlon."

• title of record • volume and page number • certificate number • couple's names • date of marriage • format of record • author name • database name • website URL • date accessed • special notes

Source citations are a key element of the Genealogical Proof Standard. Learn more about that standard's criteria at <www.familytreemagazine.com/strategies/genealogical-proof-standard>.

WHY CITE SOURCES

Carefully recording where you find each piece of family history information will help you:

- Find the source again if you need it (or if someone else does).
- Determine whether you've checked all available resources.
- Evaluate the reliability of the content and weigh conflicting information.
- Draw sound conclusions about your family.
- Assure yourself and others that your research is as accurate as possible.
- Disclose your findings and evidence in writing.
- Follow the Genealogical Proof Standard, a benchmark for accurate research.

IMPROVING RESEARCH USING CITATIONS

When you know your sources, you can do more-thorough research by evaluating and comparing your findings. Ask yourself these questions (see the glossary in this cheat sheet for definitions of italicized words):

- Is this an *original record* or a *derivative record*? If derivative, can I get to the original source? If I must use the derivative source, what errors may have been introduced?
- Have I searched for every record type that might contain the information I want?
- Is the record a source of *primary* or *secondary* information (or both)?
- Who was the *informant*? Did he have firsthand or secondhand knowledge of each piece of information they gave? Did he have any reason to lie?
- Does this source provide *direct*, *indirect* or *negative evidence* for the question I'm trying to answer? If not direct evidence, where else should I look?

THE GENEALOGY SOURCE CITATION PROCESS

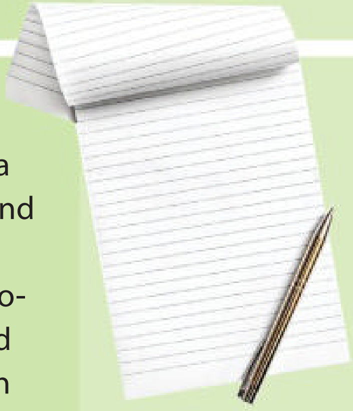
BY SUNNY JANE MORTON

PART 1: CAPTURE THE SOURCE CONTENTS

1
MAKE A COPY

Download an image of a record you find online, and scan or photocopy a record you found on paper. You'll consult this copy later to confirm the record's contents, look for more clues, or reinterpret the information against new findings.

2
TRANSCRIBE THE DATA



As you write an abstract or extract of the document, you'll often notice more clues. The transcription will serve as a quick-reference and a backup in case the copy is lost.

3
FILE THE RECORD

Develop a file-naming protocol and organize digital copies in surname files on your computer. File paper copies in binders or a filing cabinet by surname and family group. You also could use genealogy software or another data-management program.

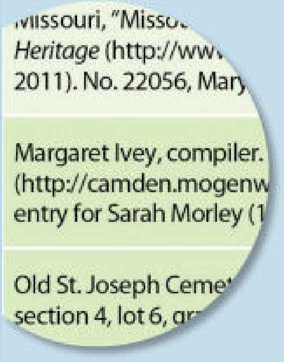
PART 2: CITE THE SOURCE

4
GATHER SOURCE DETAILS

Collect this information about the source:

- **Who:** author or agency that created the record, or the provenance of artifacts that are privately owned
- **What:** title, volume, page or document number
- **When:** date created or published, date you accessed online records
- **Where:** publisher and city, microfilm number, URL of online records; for unpublished records, the archive/library or owner's name with city and state

5
FORMAT THE CITATION



Missouri, "Missou
Heritage (http://ww
2011). No. 22056, Mary

Margaret Ivey, compiler.
(http://camden.mogenw
entry for Sarah Morley (1

Old St. Joseph Ceme
section 4, lot 6, gr

Use the sample citations in this cheat sheet to document your sources in a standard format. Note that not every example will apply perfectly to the particular record you've found. Your goal is to communicate everything a researcher (whether you or someone else) would need to find the source again.

6
LINK THE SOURCE WITH ITS CITATION

Link each fact about your ancestors to the source(s) it came from by:

- **Create a master list** of source citations. Add numbers and cross-reference to each ancestor and fact on your charts.
- **Use the source citation feature** of your genealogy software or online tree. Add a source to every fact it documents.
- **Write your citations on record copies** in the margin or on the back.
- **Add citations to digitized documents** using a photo- or PDF-editing program.

SOURCE CITATION EXAMPLES

We've organized these model source citations by the type of record you're citing: census, birth or death, home sources such as letters and oral history interviews, etc. They're modeled after the citation style used in *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace,* 3rd edition, by Elizabeth Shown Mills (Genealogical Publishing Co.).

CATEGORY	RECORD	CITATION
Birth, marriage and death	Birth certificate ordered from a state health department	Ohio Department of Health, birth certificate no. 11273 (2 February 1931), William Steele; Division of Vital Statistics, Columbus.
	County register of births from state archives website	Mason County, West Virginia, Register of Births, 1868, p. 161, line 260, for "Francisco," child of Ambrose and Susan Roush, b. 26 November 1868; digital images, *West Virginia Division of Culture & History*, Vital Research Records Project (http://www.wvculture.org/vrr : accessed 11 December 2013).
	County marriage license from library's online collection	Hillsborough County, Florida, Marriage Licenses, Thomas S.L. Smith–Catherine McCrea, marr. 21 Jan 1881; digital images, *University of South Florida Library*, Special Collections, Hillsborough County Marriage Records (http://digital.lib.usf.edu/SFS0002179/00001/pdf : accessed 4 February 2014).
	Death certificate found on state archives website	Missouri, "Missouri Death Certificates, 1910–1962"; digital images, *Missouri Digital Heritage* (http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates: accessed 5 June 2011). No. 22056, Mary Susan Miller, Platte County, 27 April 1920.
Cemetery	Cemetery burials from an online index	Margaret Ivey, compiler. "Hall Cemetery," database, *Camden County Missouri Genweb* (http://camden.mogenweb.org/hallcemetery.html : accessed 25 April 2014), database entry for Sarah Morley (1777–1860).
	Tombstone you visited	Old St. Joseph Cemetery (Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio), Henry A. Seeger marker, section 4, lot 6, grave 7; personally read, 19 February 2012.
	Tombstone photo found online	Find a Grave, *Find A Grave*, digital images (http://www.findagrave.com : accessed 12 May 2011), photograph, gravestone for Thomas Selby (1817–1886), Linn Creek, Camden County, Missouri; gravestone photograph by Marge.
Census	1840 census from FamilySearch	1840 U.S. census, Allegany County, Maryland, population schedule, Cumberland, p. 11, line 8. Mathias Rizer; digital image; *FamilySearch* (https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1786457 : accessed 25 April, 2014); citing "1840 United States Federal Census" index provided by Ancestry.com, citing NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 156; FHL microfilm 0013182.
Church	Baptismal register from microfilmed church records	*St. Joseph's Catholic Church Records, 1856–1970*, microfilm publication, 3 reels (Frankfort, Kentucky: Kentucky Historical Society, 1992), roll 1, arranged by date; see 8 December 1907, Baptism of Urban Thoss.
City directory	City directory entry found on Google Books	*Williams Cincinnati Directory*, June 1878. (Cincinnati, Ohio: Williams & Co., 1878), p. 714, entry for "Norris, Edward Sr."; digital image, *Google Books* (http://www.books.google.com : accessed 17 May 2013).
Deed and land	Deed from deed book at county courthouse	Lee County, Florida, Deeds, 42:332–333, Isaac B. Smith to Adah Hayes Smith, 14 September 1914; Lee County Clerk of Courts, Fort Myers.
	Land patent from BLM/GLO website	Bureau of Land Management, "Land Patent Search"; digital images, *General Land Office Records* (http://www.glorecords.blm.gov : accessed 5 October 2013), entry for Jacob Craft (warrantee) to Eli Owen (grantee), Black Hawk County, Iowa, no. 33367.

CATEGORY	RECORD	CITATION
Home sources	Loose family Bible pages in a family member's possession	Smith Family Bible Records, 1830–1888, loose family record pages from unknown Bible; privately held by Jill A. Marshall, 321 Main St., Cincinnati, Ohio, 45201; owned since 2003. Original owner unknown. Abraham Smith to Edward J. Smith about 1955, to Francine (Smith) Marshall in 1972, to Jill A. Marshall (great-grandaughter) in 1988.
	Letter in a family member's possession	George Rapport (St. Louis, Missouri) to "My darling wife" [Diantha Gray Rapport], letter, 29 December 1863. Privately held by Stephen Noble, Jr., Nashville, Tennessee, 1998. Diantha's papers passed to daughter Emile Handook, thence to her grandson Stephen Noble Sr. and to his son Stephen Noble Jr.
	Oral history interview	Bordeaux, Anna. New Orleans, Louisiana. Interview by Alexander Bordeaux (son of Anna Bordeaux), 24 December 1999; digital audio file privately held by interviewer, Atlanta, Georgia, 2012.
Immigration	Online passenger list (index entry only)	"Hamburg Passagierlisten, 1850–1934"; database, *Ancestry.com* (http://ancestry.com : accessed 28 July 2011), entry for Mikal Fenzak, departed 9 November 1883 [no ship stated].
	Online passenger list (with images)	"Passenger Record Search, 1892–1924"; digital images, *Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation* (http://ellisisland.org : accessed 14 August 2013), entry for Verona Straka, age 22, arrived 26 July 1922 on the *S.S. Orduna*; citing NARA microfilm publication T715, roll 3155, page 77, line 12.
Military	Civil War service records found on Fold3	"Civil War Service Records, Union Records, Kentucky"; digital images, *Fold3* (http://www.fold3.com : accessed 14 May 2014), 53rd Regiment, Co. A, entry for Frank Thoss; citing National Archives microfilm publication *Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served in Organizations From the State of Kentucky*, M405, roll 496.
	WWI draft card found on Ancestry.com	"U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918"; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (http://ancestry.com : accessed 12 September 2011), Summit County, Ohio, Akron City, Draft Board 2, entry for Edward Seeger; citing NARA microfilm publication *World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918* , M1509.
Newspaper	News article digitized online	Western Newspaper Union News Service, "Four Persons Killed: Train Hits Auto at Scene of Many Fatalities," *Akron Weekly Pioneer Press*, 12 November 1915, p. 1, col. 1; digital images, *Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection* (http://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org : accessed 3 November 2013).
	News obituary from Chronicling America website	"Obituary of Wm. M. Brownlee," *The Abingdon Virginian*, 13 November 1863, p. 3, col. 3; digital images, *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*, Library of Congress (http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov : accessed 16 July 2013).
Probate	Estate inventory file found at FamilySearch	"Ohio, Hamilton County Records, 1791–1994"; digital images, *FamilySearch* (https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2141016 : accessed 31 Mar 2014), probate record for Henry A. Seeger, vol 148, p. 309–310, file no. 94915.
Published books	Published book found on Google Books	Joel Musell's Sons, *History of Schuylkill County, PA with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Some of its Prominent Men and Pioneers* (W. W. Munsell & Co: New York, 1881), 282; digital images, Google Books (http://www.books.google.com: accessed 2 August 2012).
	Compiled family history from the library	Rachel Maretta Homer Crockett, *Homer Family History* (s. n.: Salt Lake City, Utah, 1942), p. 63.
Social Security	Social Security application (SS-5) ordered from the Social Security Administration	Michael Joseph Haddad, SS no. 286-03-8445, n. d., Application for Account Number (Form SS-5), U.S. Social Security Administration, Baltimore, Maryland.
	Social Security Death Index entry found at FamilySearch	U.S. Social Security Administration, "United States Social Security Death Index"; database, *FamilySearch* (https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1202535 : accessed 5 May 2014), entry for Josephine Depenbrock, SS no. 302-40-8723.

CITATION TIPS

1 **Cite the version of the source you use.** If Uncle Bob sends a photo of a family Bible page, cite the photo of the Bible. If a family history is on several digitized book websites, cite the book on the site where you found it.

2 **Format dates in the genealogy style.** In source citations and your genealogy software or charts, format dates like this: *DD Month YYYY*, e.g., 14 May 1883.

3 **Document the source *of the source*.** If you use a marriage record from MyHeritage that was digitized from FamilySearch's microfilm copy of the original, your source citation should include each of these "steps" in the publication process. In this case, the information about MyHeritage would be followed by the word *citing* and the information about FamilySearch. These "layers" make your citation more complete.

4 **Note whether you're using an index or an actual record.** Source citations for information from an online index generally include the word *database* after the title of the work. Citations for online collections that include record images generally include the words *digital images*.

5 **Use automatically generated citations as a starting point.** Some websites (including Ancestry.com and FamilySearch) provide source citations for a record you view. Others may include general source information somewhere on the site. You can copy these citations, but check for completeness: Does it include the date you accessed it? The name on the record you're citing? Add any missing information.

6 **When you find an ancestor's name in an index, seek the record.** The index should provide a microfilm number, volume and page number, or other information to help you locate the record.

7 **Copy the title page.** Photocopy or request copies of the title page of a book or journal every time you copy (or order copies of) pages.

8 **Record negative evidence**. Keep track of unsuccessful searches, such as the absence of a relative from a birth register in which he should appear. This documents your search efforts and may prevent needless re-checking. Note whether you searched an index or the actual register, and what spelling variants you searched for.

9 **Use online family trees with caution**. Online trees aren't independently verified and are likely to contain errors. Always do your own research in genealogical records to verify the claims you find in others' online trees; find tips at <www.familytreemagazine.com/strategies/fact-check-family-trees>.

10 **Census citations vary by year.** Because of the differences in how each US census was taken, the information in census citations varies slightly by year. For pre-1850 population schedules, cite the page number and line number. For 1850 and later, cite the page number and family/dwelling number. Also note which schedule you used (population, manufacturing, etc.).

11 **Source family stories.** In family history narratives, add numbered footnotes at the bottom of the page or endnotes at the end of the text. Place the corresponding numbers within the text, where you mention information from each source. Word-processing software can automatically format footnotes or endnotes and renumber the notes as you edit.

12 **Ask your editor.** When writing for a genealogical publication, use the citation format the publication prefers.

Citing Sources in Genealogy Software

FEATURE	Family Tree Maker 2019	Legacy Family Tree 9.0	RootsMagic 8
How does the program help you create source citations?	After helping you select an appropriate source template, the program indicates what information to include in each field.	The SourceWriter guides you through a series of questions to document your sources (such as by using the appropriate template).	You can select from almost 400 templates and enter appropriate information for each one.
Can you attach a source citation to an event (fact)?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Can you attach a source citation to a person or to a name?	Only to a name. When importing individual sources from another program, Family Tree Maker converts them to name sources.	Yes, to both. You can cite a general source for a person (the event is unspecified), as well as sources for the person's name.	Only to a person. In the Edit Person window, highlight the person's name and click in the sources column. When importing name sources from another program, RootsMagic converts them to individual sources.
Can you attach a source citation to a family?	No. But can have Shared Facts with other individuals.	No. When importing family sources from another program, Legacy converts them to marriage sources. Can share citations among relatives.	Yes. In the Edit Person window, highlight a spouse and click in the sources column.
Does the software automate attach a citation to events for multiple people?	Yes, you can copy and paste source citations. Also, in the Sources tab, you can link a citation to facts for a series of people.	Yes, you can copy and paste source citations. You can also use the Source Clipboard to reuse a source with just the click of a button, and store up to 10 frequently used citations for easy access.	Yes, you can copy and paste source citations. One "master source" can have multiple citations, such as different page numbers within a book.
Can you rate a source's reliability?	Yes. Select a source citation and click on the star to rate it.	In the Source Detail window, you can rate a source's surety level.	Yes. From the Person view, go to the Edit Citation column and find the Quality section.
Can you create source reports?	Yes. In the Publish workspace, select Source Reports to create these reports: source usage, source bibliography, documented facts, and undocumented facts. To view usage of a single citation, click on the People tab, select a fact, highlight a source, and click on the View Source Citation Usage button on the far right.	Yes. Select the Reports tab, then Other Reports, then Source Citations.	Yes. Click the Publish tab, then All Reports and Charts. Source List is among the options.
Can you attach a media file to a source citation?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Can you preview how a reference will appear as a footnote or endnote citation, subsequent citation, and bibliographic reference?	The Edit Source Citation screen's Reference Note tab shows how the citation will appear as an endnote.	Yes, the preview shows all three formats.	Yes, the preview shows all three formats.

GLOSSARY

DEBBY HUDSON/UNSPLASH

abstract: an abbreviated summary of a document that includes the key information: names, dates, relationships (son, widow), role (witness, executor, bondsman), etc.

citation: the formatted information about a genealogical source that connects that source to each piece of family information it provided.

derivative record: one that has been copied, digitized, summarized, abstracted, extracted, indexed, transcribed or otherwise created from another source. Try to track derivative records to the original. When you must use a derivative source, be sure to cite as the derivative version.

direct evidence: information in a source that directly answers a research question. For example, if the research question was "What was his birth date?" then direct evidence of that answer would be a record stating the birth date as 12 May 1835.

extract: a quoted passage taken from a source. Unlike an abstract, an extract isn't edited down to the bare essentials. An extract doesn't necessarily include key information from the entire document, just one passage.

Genealogical Proof Standard: a professional standard for credible research set by the Board for Certification of Genealogists. Its elements include a reasonably exhaustive search for answers, complete and accurate source citations, analysis and correlation of evidence, resolution of conflicting evidence, and a well-reasoned and well-written conclusion.

home source: sources of any kind you find from family members and in your or a relative's home. Though these sources may be fragmented or undocumented, they are more likely to be relevant to your family and not to others of the same name (a problem common to finding records outside the family).

index: in genealogical terms, an alphabetical or chronological list of information (such as names) taken from a set of records. For example, a census index lists the names of people from a particular census (such as the 1870 or 1900 census). An index generally provides enough information for you to locate the full record from which the index entry was created. Indexes may be in online databases, books, CD-ROMs, microfilm or microfiche.

indirect evidence: information that helps answer a research question but doesn't answer it in full. Let's say you're trying to identify Sadie's parents. One document links Sadie to her twin sister Alice and another gives Alice's parents' names. These two indirect pieces of evidence combine to answer your question.

informant: the person providing the information recorded in a document, as in a birth record. The reliability of the informant affects the reliability of the evidence.

negative evidence: when a record is not found where it should appear.

original record: a document in its original format, such as an actual death register or a diary. An original record may contain both primary information (the death date on a death certificate) and secondary information (on a death certificate, the deceased's birth date may have been provided by an informant who wasn't present when the person was born).

primary information: reported by an informant who has firsthand knowledge of an event. An attending physician or coroner may provide primary information about a person's death on her death certificate.

provenance: the history of ownership of an item

reliability: an assessment of how accurate a record is likely to be. It takes into account factors such as whether the informant had firsthand knowledge of the event, how long after the event the account was reported, what motivation the informant may have had to lie or withhold information, whether a language or literacy barrier was present, etc.

secondary information: reported by an informant who does not have firsthand knowledge of an event. A deceased woman's son who is the informant on her death certificate and provides his mother's birth date is giving secondary information.

source: the record or resource—such as an actual document, online database, informal family lore, etc.—where you discover a piece of genealogical information

transcription: a handwritten or typed copy of the exact contents of a genealogical record. Misspellings and punctuation errors in the record should be included in the transcription.

5 Essential Elements of a Source Citation

BY SHANNON COMBS-BENNETT <www.familytreemagazine.com/research/5-elements-source-citation>

WHO
created the information (author, editor, transcriber, etc.)

WHAT
is the title of the source

WHEN
the record was created or published

WHERE IN
the record the information is located (volume, page, etc.)

WHERE IS
the source physically located (archive, library, etc.)

RESOURCES

Websites

American Genealogical Studies: "Guide to Documentation and Source Citation" course <www.ngsgenealogy.org/ags/guide-to-documentation>

Board for Certification of Genealogists: Genealogical Proof Standard <www.bcgcertification.org/ethics-standards>

Cyndi's List: Citing Sources <www.cyndislist.com/citing>

Dear Myrtle's 3-2-1 Cite! challenge <blog.dearmyrtle.com/2014/04/the-ragu-challenge-3-2-1-cite.html>

Elevenses with Lisa Louise Cooke: "Source Citations for Genealogy" <www.lisalouisecooke.com/2021/06/16/genealogy-source-citations>

Evidence Explained <www.evidenceexplained.com>

Family Locket: "Genealogy Source Citations Simplified" <www.familylocket.com/genealogy-source-citations-simplified>

***Family Tree Magazine*: "How to Create a Genealogy Source Citation"** <www.familytreemagazine.com/research/beginner-genealogy-source-citation>

FamilySearch Research Wiki: Cite Your Sources <www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Cite_Your_Sources_(Source_Footnotes)>

Genea-Musings: "How Do I Cite This Record Found on MyHeritage?" <www.geneamusings.com/2014/05/how-do-i-cite-this-record-i-found-on.html>

MyHeritage: "Why & How to Add Source Citations" <education.myheritage.com/article/citing-genealogy-sources-why-how-to-add-source-citations>

Purdue University Online Writing Lab (OWL) <owl.purdue.edu>

Citation Tools

Cite-Builder <www.cite-builder.com>

EasyBib <www.easybib.com>

Genealogy Citation Builder <www.genealogycitationbuilder.com>

Zotero <www.zotero.org>

Books & Publications

***The American Genealogist* journal** <www.americangenealogist.com>

Evidence! Citation and Analysis for the Family Historian by Elizabeth Shown Mills (Genealogical Publishing Co.)

Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace, 3rd edition by Elizabeth Shown Mills (Genealogical Publishing Co.)

Genealogy Standards, 2nd edition by the Board for Certification of Genealogists (Ancestry.com)

Mastering Genealogical Documentation by Thomas W. Jones (National Genealogical Society)

Mastering Genealogical Proof by Tom Jones (National Genealogical Society)

***National Genealogical Society Quarterly* journal** <www.ngsgenealogy.org/ngsq>

***The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* journal** <www.americanancestors.org/publications/register>

Professional Genealogy: Preparation, Practice & Standards by Elizabeth Shown Mills (Genealogical Publishing Company)

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